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Singh dares Rajiv to quit

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 23: Finally, one of the ugliest chapter in India's electoral history ended yesterday with the resignation of Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala in deference to the intense public pressure, that was building up over the Mehram poll violence.

His resignation on the advice of the Janata Dal leadership was accepted by Governor Dhank Lal Mandal late Monday night and a new leader to succeed him was expected to be chosen today in Chandigarh.

Faced with mounting pressure from both the opposition and its allies, Prime Minister V. P. Singh's government decided not to impose president's rule in the state. Instead, the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) of the Janata Dal met late Monday night and decided to replace Chautala.

The decision was announced to newsmen by newly-elected party interim president S. R. Bammal, barely 30 minutes before Parliament was due to begin the day's sitting.

Later, Prime Minister Singh announced the decision in the Lok Sabha and promptly sought to turn the tables on the Congress by challenging its leader Rajiv Gandhi to respond in kind by quitting his seat in the house for the alleged malpractices that took place during the election in his constituency of Amethi.

For Bammal, who had taken over as president only Monday evening, it was a major success, having played an important role in defusing the crisis that threatened to engulf the party. He told newsmen that Chautala had been asked to step down to maintain the dignity of his office and to uphold the values of democracy to which the party was committed.

"The chief minister told me that as a disciplined member of the party, he will abide by the advice," Bammal said in a statement.

But Chautala seems to have had little choice in the matter since it is understood that the party high command had decided to expel him if he did not abide by the near unanimous decision of the PAC.

Chautala's father, Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, and veteran party leader Chandra Sekhar, also seemed to have understood the gravity of the situation facing the party; all the same, the actions of these leaders in the immediate future would be watched with great interest.

Bammal came out with the demand that Rajiv Gandhi should give up his Lok Sabha seat on similar grounds. He called upon the BJP and the left parties to support this demand and threatened his party would launch a nation-wide stir to secure Rajiv's resignation.

In the Lok Sabha, Singh displayed rare rhetorical flourish that left the opposition shell-shocked. "I demand Rajiv Gandhi's resignation here and now," he declared. "Here and now" was the phrase Rajiv used on Monday while demanding imposition of president's rule in Haryana.

Sabah hopeful amid efforts to persuade Assad

KUWAIT, May 23. (Kuna): Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed has expressed hope that Syria would attend an emergency Arab summit, amid reports that a number of Arab leaders were trying to persuade the Syrian President to attend.

Sheikh Sabah, in a statement published today in a Kuwaiti daily said he hoped the reasons Syria might not attend the summit would be eliminated.

He made the statement yesterday in Baghdad where he and Arab foreign ministers met to set the stage for the emergency summit planned for May 28 in the Iraqi capital.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Al Ghazali was also quoted as saying his country was still trying to secure Syria's participation in the summit. Al Ghazali visited Damascus last week and discussed the summit with Assad.

Syria, which has a longstanding ideological dispute with Iraq, has expressed reservations at the summit's venue and wanted the proposed agenda to be expanded.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's envoy to Assad was told in Damascus two days ago Syria supports the summit call but believes the conference should be well-prepared for.

Syria's response to the formal invitation to the summit left the door open for Damascus for a last minute change of heart, analysts said.

The Kuwaiti daily reported in a dispatch from Damascus that at least four Arab heads of states would stop in Damascus en route to Baghdad to try and convince Assad to attend the summit.

Quoting "well-informed" sources, the paper said the effort is undertaken by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Algerian President Chadli

(Continued on Page 11)



A masked Palestinian raises skywards a catapult made of a tree branch during a demonstration in West Beirut to protest against the Israeli violence. (Reuters wirephoto)

Two more killed in Kashmir riots

Srinagar toll rises to 64

SRINAGAR, India, May 23. (Agencies): Muslim separatists killed a suspected police informer today, a bystander died in a gunbattle and security forces detained 29 people during sweeps for suspects in the assassination of Kashmir's chief Muslim cleric, officials said.

Hospital sources, meanwhile, said at least 14 more deaths had pushed to 64 the number of fatalities in security force firing on thousands of mourners as they carried the body of the priest, Mouvi Farooq, through the streets hours after he was killed on Monday.

A doctor at the Institute of Medical Sciences, speaking on the basis of anonymity, said nearly 150 people remained in critical condition with wounds inflicted by Indian security personnel.

"The condition of the injured persons is worsening and they are not responding to the treatment. The toll will go much higher," the doctor predicted.

An official spokesman said security forces had intensified the hunt for the killers across the Kashmir valley and that house-to-house raids were conducted in the southern towns of Shopian and Kulgam.

In Cairo, a senior Indian official today rejected a Pakistani call for a plebiscite in Kashmir to determine the future of the violent-ridden Indian state.

"As far as Kashmir is concerned, I still maintain it is an insurgency and we can deal with it as we have done with other states in northern India," George Fernandes, India's minister for Pakistani affairs said.

US nuke shells lax safety

BRUSSELS, May 23. (Reuters): The United States said today that some of its nuclear artillery shells in West Germany had failed to meet safety standards, an admission likely to fuel strong anti-nuclear feeling in NATO's frontline state.

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said after a meeting of NATO defence ministers in Brussels that West German authorities had been informed of the problem, which had been corrected, and that there had been no danger of a nuclear explosion.

West Germany moved quickly to calm any fears. A Defence Ministry statement said the weapons were safe and that the United States had given assurances that no danger was involved in work on the shells.

Cheney told a news conference: "In 1988, it was determined that the W-79 artillery shells did not meet (safety) standards."

The 155mm calibre shells have been a major element of NATO's battlefield nuclear arsenal. In a war, they would have been fired at advancing Soviet troops.

Bush says US will take Jews as Peres offers Negev Desert

PLO wants UN force; People want revenge

Israel hints critical US stance fosters violence
Zionists 'take' Jerusalem ... it's ours: Shamir

BEIRUT, May 23. (Agencies): Thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese marched the streets of Beirut today screaming revenge for Arabs killed in Israel.

"We're coming to get our enemy, we're coming out from every house, and street and alleyway. We're coming out with stones, knives and hand grenades," yelled the demonstrators.

At least 8,000 men, many covering their heads and faces with

chequered Palestinian scarves, women and children carrying rocks walked for some seven km (four miles) to a United Nations building on Beirut's southern outskirts.

"Down with the olive branch, let the peaceful solution be dropped. Intifada (uprising) flare up," they shouted in harmony, scolding Arab and Western peace efforts in the Middle East.

"Without the cannons there is no solution ... no dialogue, no solutions with the butchers (Israel)," they screamed.

Arabs spurn US advice

Tougher anti-Israel stance

BAGHDAD, May 23. (Agencies): Arab foreign ministers, spurning unwelcome advice from Washington, drafted a tougher stance towards Israel today in preparation for next week's Arab summit, officials said.

The United States has stirred a hornets' nest with a letter urging Arab leaders, who meet in Baghdad on Monday, to tame Iraqi actions and rhetoric and to support US policy in the Middle East.

The letter was published by Iraq to show, as an Iraqi delegate put it, that "Washington is treating Arab leaders like schoolchildren."

Delegates said that instead of following American prompting, nine foreign ministers drafting a statement for the summit agreed today to drop specific reference to UN Security Council Resolution 242, which implicitly recognises Israel's right to exist.

Moderates Egypt and Saudi Arabia also lost out to hardliners

on the summit's main theme — the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Delegates said the draft will oppose all such immigration — not just the settlement of the Soviet Jews in occupied territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

The last Arab summit, held in Casablanca, Morocco, in May 1989, endorsed Security Council Resolution 242, which was passed after the 1967 war.

The letter from Washington, sent to the Arab League and its member governments, urged the Arab leaders to "go beyond the positions adopted by the last summit by explicitly endorsing the concept of peace with Israel through negotiations."

A senior Palestinian delegate told Reuters: "We are not going beyond. Do we take our orders from the Americans?"

Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa told reporters: "The resolutions of" (Continued on Page 9)

Tear-gas fired on Amman marchers

AMMAN, May 23. (AP): Police fired tear-gas to contain Palestinian demonstrations that continued for a third day today, but ebbed from the previous level of violence that left at least three dead and 25 wounded.

The demonstrations erupted after midday prayers in at least three of the Palestinian refugee camps ringing this sprawling capital.

Several highways were blocked by boulders, tree branches and burning tyres that sent black plumes of smoke drifting over the seven hills of Amman.

In Nazala quarter, a stronghold of the Muslim Brotherhood, about 200 youthful demonstrators perched on the edge of a steep cliff pelted riot police with stones on the highway 100 yards (metres) below them. The police fired salvos of the tear-gas at the top of the cliff in an effort to dislodge them.

Police also used tear-gas and batons to disperse demonstrators in the Hussein camp on the northern edge of the city and in Wabdat camp on the southern.

Hospital officials said at least two policemen were admitted for treatment after being clubbed by demonstrators in Hussein camp.

Amman's main tourist hotels were under guard by armed troops and police, apparently to prevent any repetition of Monday's attack. A Palestinian wielding a knife and a gun attacked a tourist bus, seriously wounding a Jordanian photographer and four French tourists. All remained in hospital today.

Six-wheeled armoured cars and truckloads of riot police were parked at main intersections on the approaches to various camps to prevent any of the demonstrations from marching toward the centre of the city.

The clashes started during protests over the killing of seven Palestinian labourers by an Israeli near Tel Aviv on Sunday. Clashes in Israel, where many Palestinians here have relatives, left another 13 dead and more than 800 wounded.

Jordanian and Palestinian leaders appealed for an end to the demonstrations to prevent further (Continued on Page 9)

Iran confirms arrest in UK

NICOSIA, May 23. (AP): Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (Irna) said today five Shiite Muslims from Bahrain have been arrested in Britain and are being questioned in connection with death threats against the author Salman Rushdie.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, identified one of the detainees as Dr Mohammad Shehabe, editor of London-based Arabic periodical called Al Alam.

(Earlier Story Page 9)

7 more withdraw

KUWAIT, May 23. (Kuna): Seven candidates to the next month general election today withdrew their candidacy.

The number of nominees contesting for the June 10 elections for the Interim National Council has thus decreased to 459.

DAY BY DAY

OBVIOUSLY, the telephone network in Shuwaikh are passing through a critical phase.

In the morning, lines are disconnected and the reason is attributed to heavy traffic of calls on the exchange and we are unaware as to how long this state of affairs will continue.

The Shuwaikh Area is very vital, commercially and industrially, though I believe that the Ministry of Communications has yet to appreciate its importance.

We are concerned that the "rush" on the exchange will increase to the extent that it will be virtually very difficult to make any calls.

It should be borne in mind that even a one minute call could decide very vital issues.

Zahed Matar

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KUWAIT.

Kuwait Airways hikes Indian sector fares by 5.7 per cent

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT Airways has once again hiked Indian sector fares by 5.7 per cent, effective from June 1, airline sources told Arab Times.

Air-India, whose corporate policy is to follow in the footsteps of the national carrier, is expected to follow suit.

The fare hike comes on the eve of summer rush between June and August and at a time when three airlines succumbed to market demand and dropped fares on the Kuwait-

Pakistan sector by about 24 per cent.

Lufthansa, British Airways and Pakistan International Airlines last week dropped fares to Lahore from KD184 to KD140 and to Karachi from KD140 to KD120.

A travel agent confirmed that KAC had put up Indian sector fares by five per cent, hiking them from the present KD176.400 to KD186. A KAC circular has been sent to all travel agents, asking them to apply the increased fares with effect from June 1. Travel agencies expect similar circulars from Air-India and

British Airways.

If Air-India follows suit, the cost of flying to Trivandrum would go up from KD248.00 to KD257.300. AI would follow KAC example on fares to Delhi and Bombay (KD186).

The IATA fare on Kuwait-Bombay/Delhi sector is KD197. Kuwait-Trivandrum — KD269; and Kuwait-Karachi KD174.200.

IATA fares are in force on several sectors like Kuwait-Cairo (KD97.200); Damascus (KD78); Larnaca (KD103); Dubai (Continued on Page 11)



Man stabs self

A man stabbed himself in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul yesterday demanding that Japanese Emperor Akihito apologise for Japan's past colonial rule of Korea, the Yonhap news agency said.

Dissident groups urged Roh to cancel his three-day Japan visit starting Thursday and some have threatened to "use all means" to stop his scheduled trip.

Police were on the highest level of alert in and around Seoul and have stepped up patrols around the Japanese embassy and other key public facilities in the capital to thwart attacks and disturbances that dissidents may stage.

Picture shows guards lining the man before rushing him to the hospital (Reuters wirephoto) Related story Page 6

INTERNATIONAL

India denies accusations

SUVA, May 23. (Reuters): India today denied Fiji's accusations that its embassy in the Fijian capital, Suva, had meddled in the south Pacific island state's internal affairs.

Fiji ordered Indian Charge D'Aulaires V.B. Sone this morning to close the embassy within 24 hours, and gave the embassy's Indian staff 14 days to leave.

Fiji, run by an interim government since two military coups in 1987 effectively disenfranchised

the large ethnic Indian community, accused India of a series of "unfriendly and unwarranted" acts.

Sone, in charge since the expulsion of ambassador Thetaitil Sreenivasan in November, told Reuters the expulsion order by the ministry of foreign affairs was unfortunate and came as a surprise.

The embassy of India categorically repudiates the allegation that it intervened in the internal affairs of Fiji. Sone said by telephone.

Ramos rules out martial law

MANILA, May 23. (UPI): Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos today ruled out the imposition of martial law despite a series of recent slayings of US servicemen and soldiers and grenade attacks.

"As far as I am concerned there is no need for those extreme emergency measures," Ramos said at a news conference.

Ramos said, however, that the cabinet at a meeting earlier in the day discussed proposals to extend limited emergency powers Congress granted to President Corazon Aquino to cope with the economic impact of the December coup attempt.

Ramos denied charges by the shadowy Young Officers Union that the recent killings and bombings were carried out by government agents in an attempt to force Aquino to declare martial law.

The union is a clandestine organisation within the 159,000-member armed forces seeking the ouster of Aquino. It participated in the Dec 1-9 coup attempt in which 119 people were killed and more than 500 were wounded.

The late dictator Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial law in 1972 in what historians now say was a move to perpetuate himself in power. Many Filipinos say Marcos orchestrated bombings in the early 1970s to justify the measure.

Ramos said the Defence Department "would be the last one that would wish to have a situation of martial law."

Police reported four grenade attacks against banks and a building housing US government offices in the past five days, causing minor damage but no casualties. Several bombs also have been recovered in the capital's financial district.

Today, gunmen riding in a van sprayed automatic gunfire on a car carrying constabulary Col Reynaldo Dino in suburban Kalookan town, killing him, his 27-year-old daughter, two bodyguards and a civilian bystander.

Police said the gunmen, led by a woman, pulled alongside Dino's car after his two police patrol escorts left him at a crowded highway, and opened fire. Ten others were wounded in a mini-bus that Dino's car slammed into.

Aquino denounced the killings of Dino as an "assault on all peace-loving Filipinos." She ordered an immediate investigation "to bring the killers to swift justice."

Ramos said the Dino slaying was part of the "summer offensive" being waged by the 19,000-strong communist New People's Army. The insurgent army has been battling the Manila government for 21 years.

At least 11 Americans have been killed in politically motivated killings in the Philippines in the past three years. Three of the Americans were killed during the month.

Also today, government troops clashed with guerrillas in the town of Lasan in Cagayan province, 250 miles (400 km) north of Manila, leaving two soldiers and a militiaman dead. Three rebels were killed in the encounter.

The military has said 179 government troops and 115 civilians have died this year in assassinations, ambushes and clashes.

The NPA hit squad in the capital, known as the Alex Boncayao Brigade, is celebrating its sixth anniversary Thursday and has announced it would strike at lawmen to mark the occasion.

News reports today said the brigade would launch sabotage operations against US and Philippine military installations within the next three years in the second stage of their insurrection.

Kaifu to probe into 'pollution'

TOKYO, May 23. (Kuna): Japanese Premier Toshiki Kaifu said today he will investigate allegations that a brass industry in Philippine, built by Japan's aid, is polluting sea waters and threatening citizens' health.

Kaifu told Japanese Parliament (Diet), that "industries in Asia or any other place are not allowed to cause harm," he did not elaborate.

A socialist MP had raised the issue in the supreme council and urged the government to take responsibility for the pollution in Philippine.



Two military aides of Colonel Dino and his daughter lie dead inside a car after they were ambushed by suspected communist hitmen in Manila, Wednesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

6 more killed

Pakistan violence

HYDERABAD, Pakistan, May 23. (AP): Snipers opened fire during a brief curfew break today, killing six people and wounding 27 on the ninth consecutive day of ethnic-related violence, police said.

Authorities relaxed the curfew for two hours this afternoon to allow residents in Hyderabad, a city of 3 million, to buy food and return to their businesses for a while, police said.

About 10 minutes before the curfew was reimposed, snipers began shooting from rooftops throughout the city, police said. The victims included a young girl, they said.

About 2,000 paramilitary forces, riot police and rangers have been patrolling Hyderabad, the second largest city in southern Sind province, since indiscriminate shooting started May 15. At least 53 people have been killed and hundreds wounded.

Indefinite curfews were imposed as violence spread. Security forces were ordered to shoot violators.

No one has claimed responsibility for the violence in Sind, the home province of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Police blame a militant faction of the Mojahir Qaumi Movement, a party of Muslim Indians who immigrated to Pakistan during the 1947 partition of the subcontinent.

The MQM is demanding recognition as Pakistan's fifth nationality, along with Pathans, Punjabis, Baluch and Sindhis.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES



Marlon Brando leaves court

Marlon Brando is led from a west Los Angeles court by wife Tarita Teripia following a May 22 hearing for his son. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviet snag to Casey's trip

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, May 23, (AP) — A pilot trying to become the first aviator to fly around the world in a float plane got tangled in some Soviet red tape on the second day of his voyage.

Tom Casey, 53, began the trip from his hometown of Seattle and reached Anchorage Monday, but he still hadn't received permission to fly over the Soviet Union.

He won't leave for his next stop in Nome until he gets the go-ahead from Soviet authorities, he said.

There seems to be some kind of problem — I'm not sure what and I hope it's not going to be long," Casey said. "They said it had to do with technical difficulties with the airplane."

Casey is flying a single-engine Cessna equipped with pontoons that allow it to take off and land only on water.

Casey had submitted a flight plan to Soviet officials "from Nome to wherever they'd like me to go. I told them I wanted to go from Nome, Alaska, to Helsinki."

My son is innocent

Marlon Brando holds press meet

LOS ANGELES, May 23, (Reuters) — Film star Marlon Brando, insisting that his son Christian is innocent of murder charges, told reporters: "The messenger of misery has come to my house."

Brando, who usually shuns the media, held an impromptu news conference yesterday outside a Los Angeles courtroom where Christian appeared on charges of murdering his sister's boyfriend.

"I believe my son to be innocent of the charges... but he will have a chance to prove himself (in court)," Brando told a throng of reporters and photographers.

Christian is accused of killing Dag Drollet, 26, the boyfriend of his 20-year-old pregnant half-sister Cheyenne, during an argument on May 17.

He was denied bail yesterday despite a promise from Brando that he would not allow his son to flee.

Brando sat in the front row of the spectator's section of the court listening intently as New York civil rights lawyer William Kunstler made an impassioned plea on behalf of the 32-year-old Christian.

The actor had been prepared to testify in court on his son's behalf but was not called.

As Brando spoke to reporters, his wife Tarita Teripia, whom he met when the two co-starred in the 1962 film "Mutiny on the Bounty," stood by his side.

He said he intended to appeal against the bail decision.

"The messenger of misery has come to my house."

It has also come to the house of Mr (Jacques) Drollet in Tahiti," Brando said. Jacques Drollet is the father of the dead man and a friend of Brando's.

Christian will stay in Los Angeles county jail until June 11 when a preliminary hearing will be held.

Kunstler, a firm friend of Brando's since the early 1970s when they were civil rights activists, told reporters the bail decision was outrageous. He said he thought Judge Rosemary Shumsky had made her decision before she got to the court.

In the courtroom the lawyer described Christian as a gentle, peaceful, law-abiding person who had a problem with alcohol and was very drunk on the fateful night of May 17.

"This case is going to come down to a tragic incident and confrontation... an accidental discharge of a firearm," he told the judge.

Police say Christian told them he shot Drollet during an angry confrontation at the Brando estate in Hollywood after accusing him of "slapping around" his sister.

But Kunstler said Christian was so drunk he did not know what he was saying.

"His blood alcohol content, three hours after the shooting, was 0.19, double the amount necessary for driving while intoxicated in the state of California," Kunstler said, adding that it would have been even higher at the time of the shooting.

NEW YORK: "Vogue" the new Madonna hit stayed on for the second week in a row today as number one on the pop singles record charts in the United States.

"All I Wanna Do" by Heart hopped up one notch to second position on the Cash Box magazine chart. Wilson Phillips' "Hold On" leaped from sixth to third.

Last week's number two hit, "Nothing Compares To You" by Sinéad O'Connor, tumbled to seventh.

"It Must Have Been Love" by Roxette soared into the top 10 list, up from 14th to 8th. The week's only other newcomer was "This Old Heart Of Mine" by Rod Stewart, up from 11th to 10th.

Ricky van Shelton took over the top of the Cash Box magazine country-western singles chart with his big hit "I Cried My Last Tear." Rodney Crowell's "If Looks Could Kill" was second, and Lionel Cartwright's "I Watched It All (On My Radio)" was third.

The top 10 pop singles as rated by Cash Box magazine (last week's positions in brackets):

- (1) Vogue — Madonna (Sire-Warner Brothers).
- (2) All I Wanna Do — Heart (Capitol).
- (3) Hold On — Wilson Phillips (SD).
- (4) Alright — Janet Jackson (A and M).
- (5) Poison — BBD (MCA).
- (6) Sending All My Love — Linear (Atlantic).
- (7) Nothing Compares To You — Sinéad O'Connor (Chrysalis).
- (8) It Must Have Been Love — Roxette (EMI).
- (9) I Want to Be Rich — Calloway Solar.
- (10) This Old Heart Of Mine — Rod Stewart (Warner Brothers).

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) I Cried My Last Tear — Ricky van Shelton (Columbia).
- (2) If Looks Could Kill — Rodney Crowell (Columbia).
- (3) I Watched It All On My Radio — Lionel Cartwright (MCA).
- (4) Walking Shoes — Tanya Tucker (Capitol).
- (5) Guardian Angel — The Judds (RCA).
- (6) Pass It On Down — Alabama (RCA).
- (7) Running With The Wind — Eddie Rabbit (Capitol).
- (8) Fit to Be Tied Down — Conway Twitty (MCA).
- (9) She Came From Fort Worth — Kathy Mattea (Mercury).
- (10) Walk On — Reba McEntire (MCA). (AP)

ASPEN, Colorado: A pornographic movie producer testified he saw widespread drug use during a five-hour visit to the home of radical Gesteo journalist Hunter S. Thompson last winter.

Thompson, 52, charged with five felony counts of possession of illegal drugs and dynamite and one misdemeanor count of sexual assault, appeared in Pitkin county district court for a pre-trial hearing.

The charges were filed after the producer, Gail Palmer-Stater, 35, told sheriff's deputies she was assaulted during a visit with Thompson at his Woody Creek home outside Aspen last Feb 21. She told deputies Thompson grabbed her left breast.

The district attorney's office conducted an 11-hour search of Thompson's house on Feb 26, which investigators said turned up cocaine, marijuana, valium-type pills, LSD, four sticks of dynamite and three blasting caps.

The atmosphere outside the courthouse was almost festive as 50 people, each given access cards, crowded inside the courtroom. Cars drove by with the horns honking and a group of Thompson's supporters paraded outside carrying signs.

Tourists and locals stopped to take pictures and videos.

The writer's supporters included Rodi and Gigi, two young porno stars from San Francisco, and Jim and Artie Mitchell, owners of a chain of pornography theatres and producers of XXX-rated movies in the bay area. They drove into town in a red convertible. (UPI)

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky: Oxford University scholar E.D. Sanders was named yesterday the winner of the first \$150,000 Grawemeyer Award in religion for his book "Jesus and Judaism," judges said.

Sanders, an American who has been professor of biblical exegesis or interpretation at Oxford since 1984, was chosen from 53 entrants for his 1985 book which judges said promoted better understanding between Judaism and Christianity by exploring the Jewish roots of Christianity.

"Dr Sanders... explores a simple but profound idea. Jesus was very much inside one of the major streams of Jewish thought of his day and he is not to be understood in opposition to Judaism," the awards panel said.

Sanders, a 64-year-old native of Grand Prairie, Texas, who studied at union theological seminary in New York and at Oxford University in Durham, North Carolina later this year, a spokesman said. (Reuters)

KAATSHEUVEL, Netherlands: Police this week called off a search for two wallabies that have been running wild on the outskirts of this Dutch town for two months.

"It can't do any harm to let them live up in the dunes," deputy commander J.N. Boer of the national police told the Associated Press yesterday after abandoning the search.

Besides, we have better things to do. The wallabies are small relatives of the kangaroo, and are also native to Australia. They were the pets of a local resident until they hopped his back fence and sought refuge in 100 hectares (40 acres) of dunes.

Police were concerned that the uncommon sight of two 50-cm (20-inch) wallabies hopping down the local highway might cause a traffic accident and even launched a helicopter sweep to ferret out the marsupials. (AP)

BOUSHAHRI buyers' GUIDE - Summer 1990!

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Garcia blasts drugs accord

MACHU PICCHU, Peru, May 23, (Reuters): Peruvian President Alan Garcia yesterday criticised the United States for not keeping promises made earlier this year to help Peru, Bolivia and Colombia fight the drugs trade.

Opening a two-day meeting of Andean nations in these mountain-top Inca ruins, Garcia said the United States had not offered the economic aid which President George Bush promised at a February drug summit in the Colombian city of Cartagena.

"This year tens of thousands of peasants have abandoned coffee to grow coca, and all despite Cartagena, all despite the unfilled promises made in Cartagena which we demand be fulfilled," said Garcia, framed in the massive stone walls of an ancient Inca temple.

"We demand... that the Cartagena agreement be carried out," he said.

At Cartagena, Bush met Garcia, Colombian President Virgilio Barco and Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora — whose countries account for around 90 per cent of the world's cocaine output — and promised to back their drugs fight with more aid, both military and economic.

Garcia's comments were partially backed by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, who told reporters the Cartagena agreement was not fully working.

But Paz Zamora, who earlier this month met Bush in Washington and said he returned with a promise for a doubling in aid for his country, told reporters during a walk through the Inca city: "Until a couple of weeks ago, I had the same impression as Garcia."

The Catholic church, plunging into the thick of Peru's tightly contested presidential race, yesterday charged Protestants that support candidate Alberto Fujimori aim at achieving a "non-Catholic Peru."

A written statement, signed by the Archbishop Augustus Vargas Alzamora, the primate of Peru, called for the church faithful to close ranks against what he called "the insidious campaign launched against our Catholic faith by groups of so-called Evangelicals, that do not answer to the Christian tradition." (UPI)

After 10 years of violence and nearly 19,000 people killed, Peru's mysterious and fanatical Shining Path guerrilla movement is showing signs of abating, experts on the Maoist organisation said yesterday.

Peruvian security experts, anthropologists and sociologists who have studied the secretive, indigenous, ultra-left movement, said they believed the organisation is suffering from an internal split, though none consider the movement vanquished. (UPI)

Nicaragua: The nearly-stalled disarmament of the Contras in Nicaragua has put the United Nations in the unenviable position of seeing its troops guard and feed camps of combatants capable of provoking a civil war.

In a report to a closed-door session of the Security Council on Tuesday, the usually-mild-mannered UN Secretary-General spelled out the world body's dilemma in a scenario that evoked everyone's worst fears. (Reuters)

Sweden, a staunch supporter of the former Sandinista government, will renew close ties and give Nicaragua financial aid under President Violeta Chamorro, a Swedish embassy official said Tuesday.

A high-level Swedish delegation will arrive in June for talks with Chamorro, said Socorro Alvarado, secretary of the co-operation sector at the Swedish embassy in Managua. (UPI)

Dominican Republic: Police and armed forces stepped up vigilance Tuesday following reports indicating that members of presidential candidate Juan Bosch's Dominican Liberation Party planned to take to the streets in protest over last week's election.

US house defeats Panama, Nicaragua aid bill after voting cut for El Salvador

WASHINGTON, May 23, (Reuters): The US House of Representatives yesterday defeated a bill that would have halved El Salvador's military aid and begun the flow of economic assistance to Nicaragua and Panama.

The 244-171 surprise vote against the aid bill followed a strong endorsement of its democratic-sponsored provisions cutting El Salvador military aid and rejection of a Republican substitute that would have left the size of any cuts up to the president.

Democratic leaders said the defeat was



Colombian soldiers search truck drivers in Bogotá May 22, a part of security measures. (Reuters wirephoto)

Drug war critics split

BOGOTA, May 23, (Reuters): The Social Conservative Party, the main rival of Colombia's ruling Liberals and a leading critic of their drug policy, is entering Sunday's presidential elections divided between two candidates.

The centre-right party's official candidate is Rodrigo Lloreda, 47, a former foreign minister and ambassador to the United States. But he has to battle against party elder Alvaro Gomez, who has broken away to make a third bid for top office.

Opinion polls indicate that Gomez, 71, could win more votes than Lloreda. Both are expected to lose to the Liberal Party frontrunner Cesar Gaviria, who has benefited from the split.

Bombings and murders blamed on the drug barons have created a climate of fear before the elections. In the latest incident, a liberal senator allied with Gaviria was murdered on Monday.

Gomez, a journalist and lawyer, formed the movement for national salvation and registered as a candidate in March when it became clear that Lloreda was not likely to beat Gaviria, political analysts say.

Running his campaign with little money, he won 18.3 per cent of support in a recent opinion poll, outstripping Lloreda's 13 per cent but way behind Gaviria's 60 per cent.

Lloreda believes Barco's government made a big mistake in rejecting an offer by the powerful cocaine barons last January, to surrender on condition that they not be extradited to the United States to face trial.



Andean presidents meet

Andean presidents arrived in Peru's spectacular Inca ruins of Machu Picchu on Tuesday for a summit meeting to discuss fears that changes in Eastern Europe will divert aid from Latin America.

But the summit was overshadowed before it began by Colombian President Virgilio Barco's decision not to attend because of a vote of violence sweeping his country before Sunday's presidential elections.

Officials said Barco's absence would make detailed decisions less likely at the South American meeting, seen as Peruvian President Alan Garcia's last chance to shine on the international stage before his terms ends in July.

Garcia welcomed the presidents of Ecuador, Venezuela

and Bolivia at Cuzco, 40 km (25 miles) from Machu Picchu, and flew with them by helicopter over the Andean foothills to the ruins, where they will meet through Wednesday.

The four presidents toured the magnificent ancient city set on the saddle of a mountain, still well preserved because Spanish conquerors never found them.

Above Colombian Foreign minister Julio Londoño (right) shakes hands with Ecuadorian President Rodrigo Borja as Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora (second from left) Peruvian President Alan Garcia (centre), and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez look on. (Reuters wirephoto)

Uncompromising against violence

Gaviria: confident, articulate

BOGOTA, May 23, (Reuters): Cesar Gaviria, favoured to win next Sunday's Colombian presidential elections, pledges an uncompromising stance against violence sweeping the country, whether from drug barons, leftist guerrillas or right-wingers.

Confident and articulate, Gaviria, 43, is the candidate of the ruling Liberal Party. But he is seen as something of a change from the statesmen who have ruled Colombia for decades.

Opinion polls predict Gaviria, an economist who served as finance and later interior minister in President Virgilio Barco's government, will win with 60 per cent of the vote.

He entered the presidential race after Luis Carlos Galan, original favourite for the Liberal Party's presidential nomination, was shot dead at a political rally in August last year by a gunman believed in the pay of drug traffickers.

"I'm a man of the Colombian provinces, born and raised in the provinces and used to dealing with people," Gaviria says. "You can't take correct decisions by simply sitting in a chair in the capital. You have to travel through the country."

Gaviria has pledged to use the armed forces, justice system, social policies and institutional reform against violence of all kinds, including drug traffickers.

"It is necessary to impose the command of our laws on drug terrorists, (right-wing) paramilitaries, assassins and common criminals," he recently said. His strategy would also be aimed at left-wing guerrillas.

Three presidential candidates have been shot dead in Colombia in nine months.

The drug war then flared up again, with more than 100 people killed since March in bombings and assassinations.

Lloreda opposes Barco's policy of extraditing drug suspects, arguing that it is politically expedient for Washington to find a new enemy now that the cold war appears over. He says that US courts discriminate against Colombians.

Instead he has proposed a plan under which drug barons would surrender, compensate their victims and disband their organisations in return for trial in Colombia.

Canada breaking up as pessimism grows

Government rocked by three defections

OTTAWA, May 23, (Reuters): The century-old Canadian confederation is being pushed closer to break-up as pessimism grows over whether a compromise can be found to accommodate French-speaking Quebec.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's conservative government has been rocked by three defections, including that of his environment minister, because of an impasse over whether Quebec will become part of the national constitution.

Canada has until June 23 to pass the Meech Lake Accord that will

bring Quebec into the constitution and also empower the province to some six million to protect its French-speaking heritage as a "distinct society."

However, three of the 10 Canadian provinces, worried the accord gives too much power to Quebec, are refusing to ratify it.

The Mulroney government is making a last-ditch effort to work out a compromise accord to save the deal and possibly hold a conference with provincial leaders to find common ground. So far the initiative appears to be pleasing no one.

"I am advised that the progress has not been substantial," a subdued Mulroney told the House of Commons yesterday in an update on negotiations to save the accord.

Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard quit the Canadian cabinet on Monday because of concerns the new talks would weaken the accord, which he said would be another insult to his native province.

"In convening a conference the government is making an alliance with those who want Quebec to be continued to be humiliated," Bouchard said in his impassioned resignation speech yesterday.

Support for the independence option seems to be a growing among Quebec leaders and the general populace.

Bouchard told a news conference he thought Quebecers were moving towards the idea of a sovereign province and a Gallup poll published yesterday found that 61 per cent of Quebecers now favour some form of independence.

"I believe that the solution is sovereignty-association," Bouchard told a news conference, referring to political independence with economic links. "We have to remake the country."

Two other conservative members of parliament from Quebec have also quit the government and will sit with Bouchard as independents.

Canada, with its two founding English and French communities, was formed in 1867. Its constitution, however, remained under the control of the British government until 1982 when the Liberal government reached agreement with nine of the 10 provinces to bring it home.

Quebec's separatist government of the day refused to join the federal initiative.

Mulroney reached a deal in 1987 at Meech Lake, Quebec, to include the province in the constitution but the accord unravelled after protests in the English-speaking provinces that too much was being given away to Quebec.

Quebec voted against separating from Canada in 1980 but the idea has resurged because of perceptions that the English-speaking majority is rejecting French Canada and its minimum demands.

There is none of the rage that fuelled the independence efforts of the early 1970s, when separatist radicals killed a Quebec labour minister, abducted the British trade commissioner in Montreal and planted letter bombs.

Nor is there the economic self-doubt that made Quebecers hesitate and ultimately vote against "sovereignty-association" in the 1980 referendum held exactly 10 years ago last Sunday.

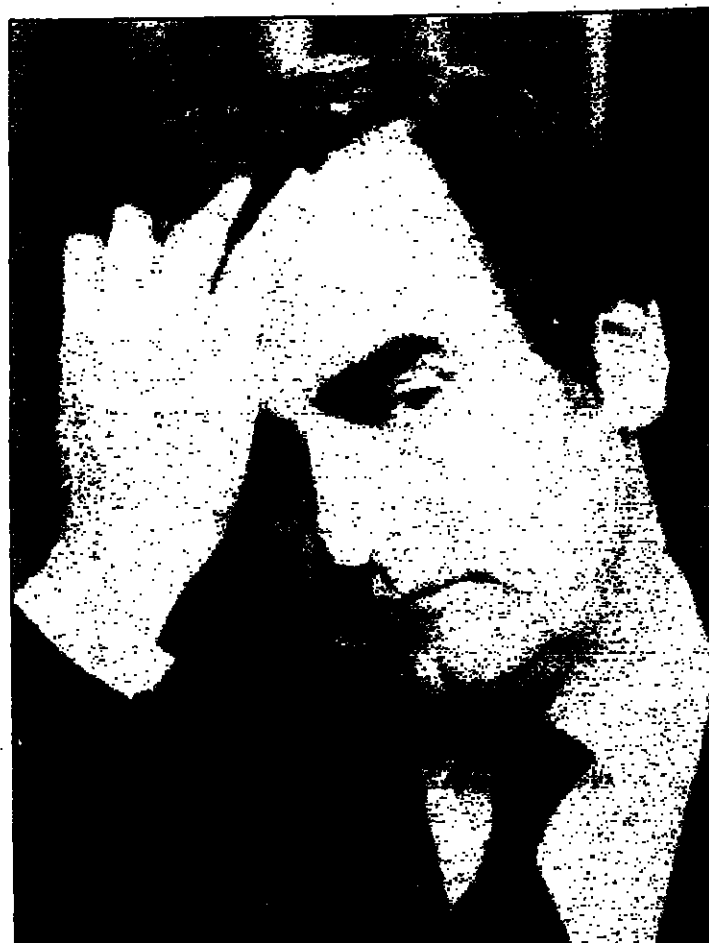
Prison Radioactive juicy drink

FREDERICTON, Canada, May 23, (Reuters): A worker at a Canadian nuclear power plant accused of pouring radioactive heavy water into a juice dispenser slightly irradiating eight co-workers, could face up to two years in prison, according to a court charge read yesterday.

The charge against Daniel Maston, 33, of Saint John, New Brunswick, was reduced to one of administering a noxious substance with intent to aggrieve, replacing an earlier charge of intent to endanger lives, which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years.

"We're going to look at it," said representative Joe Monkley, Democratic chairman of the rules committee which would have to approve the special permission or waiver.

There was a strong incentive, however, to allow the appropriations bill to go forward since it also contains funds for wide variety of other programmes that have brought the cost of the bill up to \$4.9 billion. It provides \$420 million for Panama and \$300 million for Nicaragua.



Bouchard addresses the media at a news conference following the announcement that he is resigning. (Reuters wirephoto)

Influx must end: Rocard

Pact on immigration

PARIS, May 23, (AP): France can no longer be a land for immigrants and the flow here of people seeking better lives here must be slowed, Premier Michel Rocard said yesterday in opening a parliamentary debate on one of the nation's most contentious issues.

"It is to assure the respect of our values and effectively preserve the dignity of foreigners themselves that we can only welcome as many as we can integrate," he said.

Rocard admitted the government had been slow in realising the growing level of frustration, but he warned against equating the immigration issue with racism.

Rocard, opening a debate at the national assembly, urged the centre-right opposition to agree a truce with the government on the problem, isolating the Anti-Immigrant National Front.

"We may draw different conclusions from the same diagnosis and facts but at least we can be unanimous in condemning the shameful lies of the extreme right," Rocard said.

He asked the opposition RPR and UDF parties to join negotiations for a charter setting out agreed policies on every aspect of immigration and integration.

No vote was due after the debate but the government was hoping it would end with the opposition parties agreeing to attend talks on May 29 to start drafting the charter.

Main speakers for the RPR and UDF said they had no objection to taking part in the talks but urged Rocard to tighten controls on immigration.

The government has already moved to assuage conservative voters by scrapping plans to give foreign residents the right to vote in local elections.

Immigration and racial problems have become the dominant political issues in France, boosting Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front which opinion polls show would get about 15 per cent of the vote if general elections were held today instead of in 1993 as scheduled.

A Jewish cemetery was desecrated in southern France two weeks ago. Police have not found the culprits but government ministers and church leaders have said the front was "morally responsible" for whipping up racial tension and anti-Jewish sentiment.

Le Pen has angrily denied the accusation but the front is already suffering the effects of the campaign to drive it into political quarantine.

On Monday the mayor in Le Pen's hometown in Brittany, Trinité-Sur-Mer, withdrew authorisation for the front to play host to European extreme-right parties there next June. Le Pen chairs the group of fringe parties in the European Parliament.

At least two other town councils followed suit yesterday.

NY rally to combat racial tensions

NEW YORK, May 23, (UPI): Mayor David Dinkins kicked off a "day of solidarity against bigotry" yesterday by calling on New Yorkers to show "tolerance, respect, and unity to combat simmering racial tensions in the city."

Dinkins, speaking at a luncheon forum on integration sponsored by the NAACP's legal defence fund, invited the audience to join him at an evening rally at the cathedral of St John the Divine designed to promote racial unity.

Dinkins called the rally to promote what the mayor has dubbed the "gorgeous mosaic of the city's multi-ethnic culture."

The line-up of speakers included Dinkins, Gov. Mario Cuomo and representatives of black, Irish, Italian, Jewish, Korean and homosexual groups.

"We Americans are held together by a long heritage of freedom, and we will not be divided by periodic spasms of bigotry and hatred," said Dinkins, sporting a blue ribbon in his lapel to symbolise the day of solidarity. "That mosaic must be, can be and will be preserved."

The rally comes in the wake of the two verdicts in the Bensonhurst racial slaying case and series of other racially driven incidents in Brooklyn.

The acquittal of the accused ringleader in the Bensonhurst slaying on murder charges Friday night sparked a series of protests by blacks enraged by the verdict. The alleged trigger man in the case was convicted of murder.

"In order to save this great city we have to work together," said Stanley Hill, the head of district council 3 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Police nab suspect in gay killings

FRANKFURT, West Germany, May 23, (Reuters): Police hunting a serial killer of homosexuals and vagrants last night arrested a man carrying a sledge hammer and a knife, who had told them he took orders "from the beyond."

A spokesman said the 50-year-old man was suspected of 30 murders and two attempted murders that have terrorised Frankfurt's gay and homeless communities since February.

The city prosecutor's office said the suspect, an unemployed electrician who was "immediately named," was arrested after a 59-year-old homeless man was admitted to a hospital with severe head wounds.

The police spokesman said the suspect carried a plastic bag containing a blood-stained sledge hammer and a knife, both believed to be murder weapons.

Baby restraints on airlines

WASHINGTON, May 23, (AP): The National Transportation Safety Board recommended yesterday that babies and small children sit in their own airline seats using approved restraints such as infant car seats.

"It seems time to provide protection for those children who up until now have not been protected," said Board chairman James Kolstad. The proposal would have to be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration before going into effect.

The board left it up to the FAA or airlines to decide whether all seats would have to be paid. Airlines indicated they would still give available seats free to children under 2 years old.

Under the board's recommendation, restraints would be required for all children who weigh under 40 pounds (18 kilograms) or who are less than 40 inches (one metre) tall.

The board also asked the FAA to conduct research into the adequacy of aircraft seats for retaining children who are too

Group to tackle air congestion

GENEVA, May 23, (Reuters): The International Air Traffic Association (IATA), fearing gridlock in the sky, said yesterday it had agreed to set up a group to tackle airspace congestion.

A report, commissioned by the Geneva-based agency and focusing on Europe, predicted last month that passengers carried to the continent annually would nearly double to 500 million by 2000 from 265 million in 1987.

By 2110 the figure could rise to 740 million, according to the report prepared by research consultants SRI International.

It said that unless there was a radical reorganisation of the way European airspace was managed the region's air transport would be brought to a standstill.

required for all children who weigh under 40 pounds (18 kilograms) or who are less than 40 inches (one metre) tall. The board also asked the FAA to conduct research into the adequacy of aircraft seats for retaining children who are too large for child safety seats.

Board senior investigator Norma Marshall told the board that all items aboard an airplane, including coffee pots and luggage, have to be secured, with the only exception being children under 2 years old.

Recognising symptoms and early treatment vital in pneumonia

BOSTON, May 23, (UPI): On the Saturday before he died, puppeteer Jim Henson felt well enough to play croquet. Less than four days later, he succumbed to a bacterial pneumonia that swiftly ravaged his system.

Doctors say that Henson's case — while unusual — is an example of the violence with which pneumonia can strike an apparently healthy person.

Even in an age of antibiotics, pneumonia is the United States' most common lethal infection,

affecting about 2 million Americans annually and killing more than 40,000.

It is not one disease but many, with several causes, and it affects various age groups in different ways, notes Dr Michael Barza, an infectious disease specialist at New England Medical Centre in Boston.

"Pneumonia just means an inflammation of the lung. There are many types and the typical causes vary with the age of the patient he said.

Pneumonia in newborn infants is usually caused by bacteria, very often group B streptococcus, Barza said. In children, viruses are generally to blame, while in young adults, the cause is often mycoplasma, an organism that is not a virus or a bacterium, he said.

In the elderly, and in people with health problems such as chronic lung disorders, cystic fibrosis and drug and alcohol abuse, the culprit is often the bacterium *staphylococcus*. The type of pneumonia that killed Henson

was streptococcal group A, a relatively rare but potentially deadly variety, said Barza.

He recalled seeing two victims of streptococcal pneumonia whose cases appear very similar to Henson's. Barza said each patient apparently had been "healthy and normal" before contracting the disease. But, like Henson, by the time they came in for treatment "they had such an overwhelming bacterial load, there was nothing we could do to save them."

Far more common, however, and generally less virulent, is pneumococcal pneumonia, which Barza calls the "prototypical" pneumonia that affects adults in the United States.

Symptoms of this variety of pneumonia typically include a single, shaking chill, followed by fever, pain in breathing, a cough and spitting up of phlegm.

Recognising the symptoms of pneumonia

and seeking treatment early on can be vital, especially in bacterial pneumonia, which is usually easily treatable with antibiotics, doctors say.

Although pneumonia symptoms often are similar to those of influenza, two tip-offs are "significant coughs" and sputum that is cloudy or blood-streaked, said Dr David Snyderman, who directs the New England Medical Centres clinical microbiology laboratory.

Human gene therapy

New strategy for treating cancer

WASHINGTON, May 23, (AP): Experiments have shown for the first time that human blood cells carrying foreign genes will zero in on tumours, opening a new strategy for treating cancer, researchers said yesterday.

The preliminary study, conducted on seven patients, is the first approved attempt at human gene therapy — inserting potentially helpful genes inside the body in places where nature failed to put them.

The experiment was intended to show that the approach was possible. Physicians introduced a bacterial gene that had no effect on the

patients' cancer.

Soon, however, they plan to equip patients' blood cells with a gene that delivers a powerful natural cancer-killing substance known as tumour necrosis factor. The researchers hope that will cure the disease by blizzarding the tumour with extremely high levels of toxic proteins.

Rosenberg outlined his results at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. A more detailed report is scheduled to be published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

His pilot study showed that not only did the cells survive, they homed in on tumours and produced a foreign protein here.

Rosenberg outlined his results at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. A more detailed report is scheduled to be published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Dr Robert Young of Philadelphia's Fox Chase Cancer Centre noted that while biologists have isolated genes that make potentially useful substances, transferring that knowledge from the petri dish to cancer patients has been difficult.

"The introduction of foreign genes and transferring them into human cells and putting them back into humans is an extremely important observation," Young said of Rosenberg's work. "The potential of doing this and asking therapeutic questions is now possible."

Rosenberg, a National Cancer Institute researcher, developed a cancer treatment known as adoptive immunotherapy intended to harness the body's own cancer-fighting chemicals to control the disease.

His first results, using the protein Interleukin-2, attracted wide attention when they were announced five years ago. Follow-up research showed only a small minority of patients, perhaps 5 per cent to 10 per cent, respond with complete reversal of the disease.

The latest work is an attempt to boost the power of those natural chemicals by delivering them directly to the tumour. At yesterday's meeting, Rosenberg described the results of experiments over the past year on his first five patients.

First, doctors removed so-called tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes from each patient. Those are cancer-hunting white blood cells that had invaded the tumours of patients dying of melanoma, a form of skin cancer.

Then, doctors isolated a gene that gives bacteria the ability to resist the antibiotic neomycin. They put that gene into a crippled virus, which in turn carried it into the patients' white blood cells.

Finally, they multiplied the blood cells in test tubes with Interleukin-2, a growth hormone, injecting 200 billion of those cells into each patient.

Because the cells carried a bacterial gene, doctors could track them through the patients' bodies. They found that the manipulated cells persisted in the blood for up to 189 days.

They performed biopsies on two patients and found the cells in the tumours, making the bacterial protein, 64 days after the injections.

All of the patients treated were expected to die within three months. Two of them responded well to the boosted levels of tumour-infiltrating cells, and the melanoma has disappeared in one completely for 10 months.

Rosenberg said the experiment worked just as his team had hoped.

Medical File

Snuffing out smoking: Cigarette smokers who quit on their own are nearly twice as successful at snuffing out the habit as those who join an organised programme to do it, researchers said on Tuesday.

In addition, those who stop smoking immediately have a better chance of ending the habit than those who try to taper off, said the study from the department of medicine at the University of Wisconsin.

Researchers said a review of people who tried to stop smoking during a 10-year period found that 47.5 per cent who did it on their own were successful compared to only 23.6 per cent of those who joined a programme aimed at stopping.

They cautioned, however, that the findings should not be considered an indictment of stop-smoking programmes since less than 20 per cent of potential quitters try such programmes and others may not have access to them because of cost or other reasons.

Also, heavy smokers and those who have tried often to quit are more likely to join a programme, they said.

The study was published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association. (Reuters)

HTLV-1 common in Brooklyn: A distant relative of the AIDS virus that causes a form of leukemia is unusually common among southern and Caribbean blacks living in central Brooklyn, a researcher reported Tuesday.

The virus, known as Human T-Cell Lymphotropic Virus type 1, or HTLV-1, infects a type of white blood cell called a T-cell and can cause a rare, highly malignant cancer known as adult T-cell leukemia.

Our study indicates that HTLV-1 infection is much more widespread than previously believed and, because of its long latency period, could become a public health problem in the future," said Dr Harvey Dosik, director of medicine at the Interfaith Medical Centre in Brooklyn.

Bone marrow drug: A genetically engineered version of a naturally occurring protein appears effective at increasing infection-fighting white blood cells in patients with two bone marrow diseases, a researcher reported Tuesday in Washington.

Dr John Thompson of the University of Washington in Seattle told a meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology a substance called Granulocyte Macro-

phage Colony Stimulating Factor, or GM-CSF, appears promising.

In a study, 100 patients with Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS) and Aplastic Anemia (AA) were given GM-CSF through 20 university medical centres nationwide beginning in February 1989.

Verbal war on smoking: US Health Secretary Louis Sullivan stepped up his verbal war on smoking on Wednesday, denouncing the tobacco lobby and urging advertising agencies to renounce business from the industry.

"The real wonder is how, as a society, we continue to let the advocates of tobacco distract our attention from the truth," he said in a speech to cancer researchers.

Drug may help Aids patients: A drug that forces the body into producing more red blood cells appears to reduce the need for blood transfusion in Aids patients being treated with AZT, according to new US research. If further tests confirm the effectiveness of the drug erythropoietin, a natural substance mass produced through genetic engineering, it could help Aids patients who risk developing severe anaemia when they receive AZT, which is formally known as zidovudine. (Reuters)

UK to study rare brain condition resembling 'mad cow' disease

LONDON, May 23, (Kuna): The UK department of health announced yesterday that it was launching a new study into a rare human brain condition, resembling the "mad cow" disease currently affecting British cattle.

The study, lasting four years and costing £350,000, aims to gather statistics on the incurable dementia-like disease called Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD), the department said.

The disease has recently become the subject of

special public interest in the UK because of its similarity to the brain disorder affecting cattle, known as "mad cow" disease, the UK media noted.

Some British scientists have expressed fears that the cattle disease may be passed on to humans via the food chain, it was pointed out.

A 15-year study into the rare human brain disorder which ended in 1985 found that an average of 20-30 people in the UK die of CJD each year.

The new study will look into the lifestyle and diet

of each victim of the disease in order to establish whether any link can be found with the disease in cattle.

It will also reveal whether there has been any increase in the numbers of those affected by the illness in recent years.

■ Laughing off a rash of food scares in Britain, a group of bovine vipers yesterday devoured a "dangerous dinner" of foodstuffs that have made alarming headlines here.



Rains hit France

Water streams from a closed door as a man in boots strolls by May 22 a day after heavy rains in western France caused the death of one man. In Clisson, south of Nantes streets were flooded as water rose 1.5 metres in thirty minutes. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hurricanes on the way

New phase may become common: experts

MIAMI, May 23, (UPI): Devastating hurricanes like Hugo, the killer storm that surged across the South Carolina coast in September causing \$7 billion in damage, may become more common along the Atlantic Ocean during the 1990s, hurricane experts say.

"During the past two decades, we have been through a real lull in hurricane activity. We think that is the abnormal period," said Dr Bob Sheets, the director of the US national hurricane centre.

The 6-month Atlantic-Caribbean hurricane season begins June 1.

The past two hurricane seasons produced five hurricanes with winds of 131 mph (211 kph) or greater — the largest number of category 4 and 5 hurricanes for any 2-year period since 1960 and 1961.

Experts point to those storms as well as changing rainfall patterns over West Africa as evidence that a new, more powerful phase of Atlantic storm activity may be in the works.

William M. Gray, a professor at Colorado state university who tracks tropical storms, first noted the trend last fall.

Gray says that when West Africa is well watered, tropical waves that form off the coast are more intense and tend to produce stronger storms.

"It is a striking correlation. I'm surprised that no one ever saw it before," Sheets said.

Hurricanes are ranked on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the most powerful. The strongest Atlantic hurricanes typically begin life off the west coast of Africa.

"When we look at the cycles of hurricanes over the past 40 years, we have seen major hurricanes over South Florida and the east coast in the decades of the '40s and '50s and then we have been through a real lull in hurricane activity in the '70s up through about '85 or so," sheets said.

"Certainly, research that has been done by the Colorado state university people... has indicated that perhaps that cycle has been related to rainfall over the western part of Africa," he said.

West Africa suffered a drought in the late 1960s through the 1980s, but rainfall has returned to near normal levels in the past several years, Sheets said.

Last year, three hurricanes slammed into the US mainland. Chantal and Jerry struck the upper Texas coast and together were responsible for 16 deaths and an estimated \$170 million in damage.

Tropical storm Allison never reached hurricane strength, but nonetheless caused 11 deaths and \$500 million in damage in Texas and Louisiana.

Hugo was blamed for 49 deaths during its romp across the Caribbean and the southeastern United States. Officials said the monster storm caused \$10 billion in damage, including \$7 billion on the US mainland.

Sheets toured the US coast from the air just after the storm passed.

"The massive nature of this destruction was just unbelievable, even for me," Sheets said. "I've seen degrees of damage just as great, but over much smaller areas. When this thing got so widespread, and then so far inland, I've never seen that in the past."

As the hurricane centre prepares for the 1990 season, Sheets hopes people will remember Hugo.

"People really don't comprehend what a hurricane can do. I think our building practices have relaxed as a result of that," he said. "Hugo woke a lot of people up."

Sheets said hurricane specialists at the centre are getting better at forecasting where storms will strike and when.

"Our statistics clearly show that our forecasts are improving, except that it is a very slow improvement," he said. "Our forecasting ability is improving as fast as the coastal population is increasing."

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Beijing student activists vow to 'deprogramme' freshmen

BEIJING, May 23, (Reuters): Student activists at Beijing University, a centre of last year's pro-democracy unrest, have vowed to "deprogramme" the minds of freshmen sent away for a year of military training and communist indoctrination.

Hundreds of young People's Liberation Army trainees paraded through Beijing University campus last week in what was designed as a triumphant homecoming, students said today.

Virtually the entire freshmen class was sent for indoctrination months after troops cru-

shed a pro-democracy campaign last June.

But when the unarmed, uniformed trainees entered the gates of the prestigious university on Friday, chanting army and Communist Party slogans, they were surrounded by upperclassmen.

"We pleaded with the freshmen to abandon their military outfits and to join the democratic spirit of Beijing University," said one student who asked not to be named.

"The freshmen's march on the campus angered many students, especially those who witnessed the PLA's violent march toward

Tiananmen Square last June," said another student, referring to the assault on central Beijing that cost hundreds, perhaps thousands, of lives.

"The government is trying to reshape the spirit of Beijing University by moulding the freshmen into loyal socialists and soldiers," said a student active in last May's demonstrations.

"But we have vowed to teach the freshmen the true spirit of Beijing University, only science and democracy can save China," said

the student.

Students vowed to "deprogramme" the freshmen, who have spent their time sequestered at the Shijiazhuang Military Academy, 250 km (150 miles) southwest of Beijing.

The official Beijing Daily today devoted an entire page to pictures of the young army cadets, goosestepping, shouting slogans and smiling as they study.

"After seven months of studying and training, the students have gained a clearer understanding of the political direction, raised their

spirit of collectivism. They have a strong sense of discipline and excellent moral virtues," the daily enthused.

But on campuses, activists have armed themselves with books on Western democracy and Soviet political reform to continue their struggle for change, say former leaders of the crushed student movement.

Chinese students announced plans yesterday for nationwide rallies and marches in memory of Tiananmen Square and urged all Americans to wear traditional mourning

white on June 4 to mark the massacre of a year ago.

"The people in China are not able to mourn for the people who died for democracy. We must mourn for them," said Yongchuan Liu, president of the Independent Federation of Chinese students and scholars.

The group, which represents the interests of 40,000 Chinese students in the United States, urged President George Bush to temporarily revoke China's "most favoured nation" trade status to pressure Chinese authorities toward reform.

Fear of tribal war in Liberia

MONROVIA, May 23, (Reuters): Four hacked, bullet-riddled bodies were found in the capital of Liberia yesterday, intensifying fears of tribal violence in the West African nation.

Witnesses said the victims in Monrovia were all apparently members of the Gio or Mano tribes which support National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels led by Charles Taylor.

Taylor, who invaded Liberia six months ago to overthrow President Samuel Doe, and his followers captured the key port Buchanan over the weekend.

On Monday, newspapers reported the discovery of three decapitated bodies on the outskirts of Monrovia and another which had been castrated. The tribal affiliations were not immediately known.

Thousands of Gio and Manos have fled northeastern Liberia to avoid attacks by soldiers trying to crush the rebellion.

Aid workers and diplomats said hundreds of Gio have been killed. The government denies indiscriminate killing and accuses Taylor of similar attacks on civilians.

Reports from Grand Bassa county east of Monrovia said armed men had ransacked a school on the main Buchanan highway, raped students and held the principal at gunpoint.

Gabon: Members of the National Assembly and the Gabonese Democratic Party adopted unanimously a new constitutional law laying down the conditions for a transitional period leading to multiparty democracy, officials said.

The vote ended 22 years of one-party rule and followed the adoption Monday by the assembly in the Central African nation of a national chapter for introducing democracy as recommended by a national conference on the political future of the oil-producing state that was held from March 27 to April 21 in the capital Libreville.

Under the new constitutional law the term of office of the current President, Omar Bongo, is set at seven years. In the eventuality he should resign, presidential elections would be held for a successor who would hold office for five years with his term renewable only once.

Ivory Coast: Firemen went on strike last afternoon and briefly stopped cars and taxis trying to enter the city, witnesses said. Soldiers and police have struck in the past week, returning to work only after being promised better pay and allowances.

Salaries for state employees have been frozen for eight years as President Felix Houphouët-Boigny's government struggled to pay bills.

In March, Houphouët-Boigny, Africa's longest-serving president, tried to impose wage cuts and new taxes. Violent protests forced the withdrawal of the measures, and the president had to give in to demands to permit opposition parties.

Senegal: A firefight yesterday between Senegalese troops and Guinea Bissau frontier patrols left two soldiers dead on both sides in a new border incident between the two West African nations, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported.

Last-minute contacts

Moves to clear way for Japan apology to Korea

TOKYO, May 23, (Reuters): Japan and South Korea engaged in a flurry of last-minute contacts today to clear the way for an historic apology to Seoul over Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula earlier this century.

Emperor Akihito himself is expected to express his sadness for Korean suffering. He is expected to make his statement on Thursday, shortly after South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo arrives in Tokyo amid exceptional security measures for a much-postponed state visit.

The Japanese government, which long resisted involving the Emperor in the controversy at all, has said his statement will not

constitute a formal apology. That will be made by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

But Roh, under pressure at home to secure an unambiguous expression of Japanese regret for its 1910-1945 occupation of Korea, has held out for Akihito to make a more clear-cut statement than the vague expression of regret made by his father, the late Hirohito, in 1984.

Japan's Kyodo news agency quoted a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry source as saying the cabinet was drafting a speech for the Emperor that should "satisfy the expectations of the Korean people."



Some 1,500 protesters demonstrated against the official one-day visit of De Klerk in Bern, Switzerland. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pretoria extremists heading for clash

JOHANNESBURG, May 23, (Reuters): The South African government looked set for a clash with white extremists after Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok pledged to crack down on armed right-wingers.

After Vlok's speech in Parliament yesterday in which he threatened to use gun control laws or emergency powers against the extremists, neo-Nazi groups met in the mining town Welkom to discuss tactics in what they say will be a race war.

Fourteen blacks and two whites have died in the town in the past week, business has ground to a halt due to a black consumer boycott of white-owned shops, and the adjoining black township has become a no-go area for whites.

Eleven of the black victims died after police, fired on youths demonstrating on Sunday against a community decision to suspend the boycott, called 12 days ago in protest against night patrols by armed white extremists.

Since the patrols began in March, two blacks have died and several others have been injured in attacks by whites.

The neo-Nazis stopped their patrols last week in response to a police request, but resumed them on Monday after turning the funeral of a white mine official into a paramilitary ceremony by firing a 21-pistol salute over his grave.

The official was killed by black miners last Wednesday during a clash with security men.

Vlok said he would take drastic action to curb the tension.

"I am not prepared to allow these reckless and frightened people to push the country over the precipice of bloody race conflict," he said.

"Under no circumstances can it be tolerated that people or groups act in such a manner, or carry weapons in such a way that other members of the community feel threatened or that it is the cause of conflict."

South Africa is using black factions fighting in South Africa's Natal province to try to weaken the African National Congress (ANC), its leader Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

Mandela, whose supporters are embroiled in a bloody power struggle in Natal with supporters of Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha Movement, said the government could end the violence in two or three days if it wanted to do so.

Black South African leader Nelson Mandela will address the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva on June 8, the UN body announced today.

Latest: Police conducted house-to-house searches before dawn today in the black township of Thabong, then drove through the neighbouring white town of Welkom to reassure residents, officials said.

Twelve people have died this week in mob attacks and clashes with police in Thabong in the Orange Free State province.

Lift sanctions: Thatcher's call

Demos against De Klerk

LONDON, May 23, (AP): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said yesterday that economic sanctions on South Africa should be lifted because President F. W. De Klerk's reforms have made them "almost irrelevant."

Answering a question in Parliament from a pro-South African lawmaker, Mrs Thatcher issued her most forthright call so far for waiving sanctions.

It came four days after De Klerk met Mrs Thatcher in England during his nine-nation tour of Europe.

Praising De Klerk's "integrity and courage," Mrs Thatcher said he had implemented reforms "which are irreversible, which will bring an end to apartheid and which will in the end have through negotiations a democratic government on a non-racial basis."

"I believe that there is no place now for sanctions and ... indeed they are almost irrelevant," she said, adding: "those people who want South Africa to have a prosperous economy should not support sanctions in any way."

Mrs Thatcher has been consistently at odds with Britain's partners in the 49-nation Commonwealth and the 12-member European Community in opposing sanctions.

De Klerk yesterday voiced confidence that growing support for his reform policies will lead to the lifting of sanctions, perhaps before the end of the year.

He said he was sure the reforms will attain the goal of improving "the quality of life of all South Africans because

whether it happens now or whether it happens in six months, our international situation will be normalised and that ceiling which has been placed in our economy to a certain extent will be removed."

De Klerk spoke to reporters after meeting with members of the Swiss cabinet, including Foreign Minister Rene Felber, on the seventh leg of his nine-nation tour of Europe.

In reply to a question he said he was confident that his pleas for a re-evaluation of policies toward South Africa will already get a positive response at next month's European Community summit.

"I am confident because the whole of Europe wants us to succeed," he said.

He warned that failure to recognise that the country is "inexorably on the road to a new South Africa" would "play into the hands of the radicals, of those who do not want a peaceful solution."

"The same has come for the world to take off its apartheid glasses," he said. "We are aiming at a situation where there won't be any underdogs in South Africa."

Police used tear gas and rubber bullets yesterday to disperse about 150 rock-throwing demonstrators trying to enter the hotel where De Klerk was staying.

The protest — the first major demonstration of his tour — came as De Klerk met with government officials in Bern before financial discussions with bankers and businessmen.



Seoul student's funeral

Thousands of mourners, their black ribbons ruffled by a light breeze, massed peacefully at a university campus in Kwangju on Wednesday for the funeral of a South Korean student.

Student radicals shouted anti-government and anti-American slogans as the flag-draped coffin carrying the body of Shin Jang-Ho (portrait being carried by students) was carried from a hospital to Chonnam University.

As the Buddhist funeral rites proceeded, Chon Yong-Ja, mother of the 21-year-old engineering student, sobbed hysterically and at one point cried out:

"My son my son who took away my son?"

Shin died last Saturday of injuries sustained when he jumped from a moving train to evade a police cordon. He had been travelling to a rally at another Kwangju campus sponsored by Chondae-hyop, the radical student group.

During the funeral, dissidents and student leaders called for the downfall of President Roh Tae-Woo and his ruling Democratic Liberal Party.

They eulogised Shin as a patriot.

The normally ubiquitous riot police were nowhere to be seen. Only a few traffic patrolmen were present as the two-vehicle cortege (shown above) left the hospital for the campus a few blocks away. (Reuters wirephoto)

Factions agree to sign truce

Cambodia conflict

BANGKOK, May 23, (AP): The four warring factions in Cambodia have agreed to sign a ceasefire pact soon, the official Radio Thailand quoted Thailand's prime minister as saying today.

The broadcast said Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, a key mediator in the conflict, mentioned the truce while speaking about talks on the Cambodian conflict to be held in Tokyo June 4-5.

"It is certain that the four Cambodian factions have agreed to sign a ceasefire agreement soon," the broadcast paraphrased Chatichai as saying.

Such a pact would be the first significant political agreement in 11 years of fighting between the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government and three guerrilla groups. But in the past, the Cambodian factions often have gone back on promises of agreements. They could not be immediately reached today.

Radio Thailand said Chatichai spoke after conferring in Bangkok yesterday with Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach of Vietnam. The broadcast said Thach congratulated Chatichai on persuading the Cambodian factions to agree to a truce.

Officials have said the talks in Tokyo are likely to focus on how to monitor a ceasefire and conduct free elections, and the role of

the United Nations in the process.

Negotiations thus far have been stymied by quarrels over who should govern Cambodia before the election, and various officials have said a truce should be agreed to without waiting for resolution of the political disagreements.

Phnom Penh's Premier Hun Sen has said he will attend the Tokyo talks. A Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman has quoted Thach as saying he hoped Hun Sen would be flexible at the talks.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the main non-communist guerrilla leader, said earlier he would not negotiate with Hun Sen in Tokyo. But in a statement issued in Bangkok today, he said Thailand's army chief Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, the main broker for the proposed truce pact, persuaded him to change his mind.

In the statement, Sihanouk referred vaguely to "the Cambodian peace agreement ... which, possibly, I would sign in Tokyo." But he said the agreement would commit only himself since he recently resigned as head of the guerrilla coalition government.

Son Sann, leader of the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front, also will be in Tokyo at the time of the talks his office said.

Refugees set off for Australia

JAKARTA, May 23, (UPI): The Indonesian government, keeping with its policy toward Cambodian refugees, gave food, fuel and other assistance to a boat carrying 79 refugees and escorted it back out to sea, authorities said today. The refugees were all headed toward Australia, a harbour official in Surabaya said.

The 56-foot (17-m) boat, carrying 48 Cambodian men, 20 women and 11 children, washed ashore Monday near Madura island off east Java, the harbour official added.

The boat had been stranded in the western Kalimantan coastal town of Jungkat after developing engine problems and a leaking hull on May 13, the official said.

Government officials previously announced they would provide only temporary shelter to Cambodian refugees it considers "economic immigrants" because they are fleeing poverty rather than persecution.

The harbour official said the Cambodian refugees who arrived Monday were escorted out of Tanjung Perak harbour before noon yesterday by an Indonesian marine vessel and were headed toward Australia.

Six boats carrying a total of 420 Cambodian refugees landed this month in the Indonesian islands, officials said. The refugees were all headed toward Australia, the officials said.

Former heads of states gather

Conference on world problems

SEOUL, May 23, (AP): Former heads of government and political leaders from 26 nations arrived yesterday for a privately funded international conference to seek global solutions to world problems.

The 30 participants at the 8th annual Interaction Council meeting, opening today, include political leaders from every continent. The four-day meeting also brings together at least two nations that have no diplomatic relations — China and South Korea.

Four people were wounded two of them seriously, in explosions Monday at an apartment building for government workers in Osaka.



Fukuda (left) sits next to Giscard d'Estaing at a gathering of the International Council May 23 in Seoul. (Reuters wirephoto)

At the personal intervention of former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, China agreed to send Pu Shan, former director of the Institute of World Economy and Politics in Beijing, informed sources said.

Schmidt was in Beijing for a private visit before flying to Seoul and appealed to former Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua, who has attended past meetings, to send a delegate, said the sources, who declined to be named.

One of the main subjects on the groups' agenda was a discussion of political developments in Asia and the Pacific in the 1990s.

Other subjects to be explored in closed-door sessions included current events in Europe; the globalisation of financial markets and the relationship between development, population and the environment.

Former Japanese prime minister Takeo Fukuda, honorary chairman of the conference, established interaction in 1983 as a vehicle to allow former heads of government to influence world policy.

Council members study and discuss plans for dealing with major world issues, then communicate their joint proposals for solutions to current world governments following each conference.

Participants included former Mexican president Miguel de La Madrid Hurtado, former Australian prime minister Malcolm Fraser, former French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the king of Nepal, former Canadian prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and former Zambian prime minister Daniel Muchiwa Lisulo.

Angolan government troops close southern operation, prepare for shift north

CUITO CUANAVALE, Angola, May 23, (AP): Private Francisco Kisinga, 20, is already a veteran of Angola's 15-year civil war — decorated for bravery in what the Marxist government calls its two most decisive victories at Cuito Cuanavale and Mavinga.

Kisinga, a 5-foot-5-inch (1.6 metre) warrior whose non-de-guerre is jibola — "Portuguese for a large snake that seizes, bites and kills," he explains — joined the Peoples' Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA) when he was 15.

Now, despite renewed peace efforts between the government and Unita rebels,

Kisinga might not get a chance for his first-ever leave from the main Fapla base at Cuito Cuanavale, 540 miles (900 kilometres) southeast of the capital Luanda, before his 25th brigade moves northward for further action.

The government has declared its four-month southern campaign — codenamed Operation Zebra — successfully closed after Fapla troops wrestled the bombed-out and once-strategic town of Mavinga from rebel hands Feb 2, and pulled back their troops to Cuito Cuanavale.

Although peace talks with Unita started again last month in Portugal, 10 months

after the collapse of an initial truce brokered by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, last June 22 in Gbadolite, Zaire, Fapla commanders are pressing on with their campaign in other parts of the country where Unita is now attacking.

"Cuito was a real hard battle — heavy artillery, tanks, bombs ... Mavinga was just routine shelling and mines — there was no hand-to-hand combat, the Kwachas just run away," grinned Kisinga, guiding foreign reporters in an armoured car along tracks in the heavily-mined battlefield of Cuito Cuanavale where Fapla

and Cuban troops halted South Africa's military push into Angola in March 1988.

Kwachas is the battery of Jonas Savimbi's Unita — National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — that has fought Angola's Soviet-backed government first with South African and now with US aid, since shortly after independence from Portugal in 1975.

According to Lt Col Francisco Furtado, chief of staff of Operation Zebra, the attack on Mavinga that began from Cuito December 21 involved heavy clashes between 7,500 Unita troops and a similar number of government soldiers.

Romania tough on rigging charges

BUCHAREST, May 23. (AP): Police urged citizens today to inform on organisers of a planned march to protest the alleged rigging of national elections won overwhelmingly by the governing National Salvation Front.

A police statement in the pro-government daily newspaper *Adevartul* appealed to citizens to identify "ill-meaning elements" it accused of distributing leaflets calling for a demonstration Thursday in downtown Bucharest.

The phrase was reminiscent of ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's terms for his opponents.

The police statement published today did not elaborate. A police spokesman said on condition of not being identified that "several people were questioned but none was arrested" in connection with the call for a protest.

A handful of protesters distributed leaflets today in University Square, a gathering place for anti-government protesters. The leaflets called on Romanians to join a protest march that would start from University Square.

They claimed Sunday's election was rigged by the Front, a loose grouping of former communists that has dominated politics since last December's revolution toppled Ceausescu.

"The votes were manipulated and even the victims of the revolution were registered and 'voted'," said Elena Vasile, 30, a member of the 16-21 association of people involved with the December revolution. She was distributing leaflets this morning.

Foreign election observers said there were many irregularities in the balloting, but not enough to affect the outcome.

Officials said about 16 million Romanians were eligible to vote, and that at least 85 per cent of them participated. The exact figure for total votes was not yet compiled.

It was the first time in 50 years that Romania voters chose from a list of candidates and parties in an election.



Shevardnadze (left) escorts Genscher into the Soviet Mission in Geneva May 23. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gorby accuses Yeltsin

Abandoning socialism

MOSCOW, May 23. (Agencies): President Mikhail Gorbachev angrily accused radical communist Boris Yeltsin today of abandoning socialism and trying to break up the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev, his voice rising with emotion in a 45-minute speech to the Russian republic's new congress of People's deputies, called his radical critics "political rogues" and accused them of "unscrupulous and dirty methods."

Gorbachev said that while he favours strengthening the sovereignty of the Russian republic, Yeltsin was using the guise of greater independence for Russia to promote the breakup of the Soviet Union.

"If comrade (Yeltsin's speech) is subjected to very serious analysis, then he is proposing under the banner of restoring the sovereignty of Russia a call for the dissolution of the union," Gorbachev said.

Gorbachev said he was concerned because Russia was the core of the Soviet Union's 15 republics.

"How could we go on without Russia if it goes in another direction?" he asked.

"If some other republic exercises its right to secede from the union, it would infringe upon the interests of other republics, but we would survive," Gorbachev said. "But the USSR is unthinkable without Russia."

Yeltsin, a former Moscow Communist Party boss who is now a leader of the radical democratic Russia bloc in the congress, said yesterday the Soviet Union's largest republic has "sustained the greatest damage from the obsolete administrative-command system that is desperately clinging to life."

He and other nationalist deputies in the Russian republic's founding legislature have called for more independence and greater power for Russia within the Soviet Union.

The Russian legislature was to choose its chairman as early as this week, and Yeltsin is a strong candidate for the effective presidency of the Russian republic, which would give him a powerful base from which to challenge Gorbachev.

Gorbachev charged that Yeltsin's speech "contains an

attempt to separate Russia from socialism" and criticised him for referring to Russia without using the formal name Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, leaving out the words "Soviet" and "Socialist."

Yeltsin, who was also a candidate member of the Communist Party's ruling Politburo, fell out of favour and lost his top posts for criticising the pace of Gorbachev's reforms as being too slow.

In a stunning political comeback, more than six million Muscovites voted for the maverick communist and elected him to the USSR Congress of People's deputies in groundbreaking multicandidate polls last year.

Meanwhile leaders of the three Baltic republics issued a joint appeal to the United States and Europe for diplomatic recognition and economic help for their independence-seeking territories.

Latest ■ Russian workers in Estonia called off a strike against the republic's independence declaration on Wednesday after an appeal from Gorbachev, the strike committee said.

Nyet, say Soviets

Shevardnadze denies demanding German cuts

GENEVA, May 23. (Agencies): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze denied today that Moscow demands cuts in German armed forces before any overall European Conventional Force reductions being negotiated in Vienna.

"Nyet, nyet," Shevardnadze replied, firmly shaking his head, when asked if he could confirm reports of such a demand made in talks in Moscow last week with US Secretary of State James Baker.

The Soviet foreign minister spoke with reporters after a 5-hour

meeting with his West German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher. "That is the first time I have ever heard the Soviet foreign minister say 'nyet' to something," joked Genscher, standing next to Shevardnadze in the grounds of the Soviet diplomatic mission in Geneva.

Shevardnadze also said Moscow wants to accelerate the Vienna talks — rather than delay them as was reported within Nato and in Washington.

The reports said Moscow may be trying to hold up a Vienna

agreement by demanding prior accord on German force cuts at the so-called two-plus-four negotiations between the two Germans plus the United States, Britain, France and Soviet Union.

He and Genscher, Shevardnadze said, discussed the conventional force talks "and we advocated an acceleration of the Vienna negotiations."

The objective at Vienna is to get an agreement for endorsement at the projected summit meeting of all European nations plus the United States and Canada, he said.

Priority "We don't have to make concessions but there must be compromises in Vienna," he said. "The priority is conventional force reductions."

Asked about Soviet opposition to Western insistence that a unified Germany belong to Nato, Shevardnadze replied: "That is a very tricky issue. We don't see an agreement yet. But of course it was discussed (with Genscher)."

The West rejects any discussion of German armed forces cuts at the two-plus-four talks which centre on political instead of military issues of German unification.

Shevardnadze said his meeting with Genscher in neutral Geneva was "businesslike and constructive" and that the emphasis was on economic, trade, technology and scientific issues rather than military matters.

Prospects "We came to the conclusion that we have good and encouraging prospects ahead of us," he said through an interpreter.

There was some discussion all the same of German unification in the context of the two-plus-four negotiations, Shevardnadze said.

Speaking after Shevardnadze, Genscher described their meeting as "very satisfying and fruitful."

Genscher also said the talks centred on economic issues such as the forthcoming June 1 German monetary union.

They also discussed "German-Soviet relations in the perspective of a unified Germany," he said, speaking in German with an interpreter translating into Russian for Shevardnadze.

Genscher flew from Geneva to Paris in the evening for talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and was then going on to Washington to see Secretary of State Baker.

Rejected The United States and West Germany yesterday rejected a Soviet suggestion on limiting the size of a unified German army during international talks on German unification.

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and the West German Foreign Ministry said the two-plus-four unification talks are not the proper forum for discussing limiting German troop strength.

Also Tuesday, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government turned down the demand by the opposition Social Democrats for alterations in the economic merger treaty with East Germany.

Finance Minister Theodor Waigel said fundamental changes in the merger treaty could result in German unity being "gambled away."

Summit West Germany is looking towards next week's US-Soviet summit for help in keeping to Kohl's tight timetable for German unification.

The unity schedule, which Kohl wants to see completed by early next year at the latest, was clouded after Washington failed to win concessions from Moscow last week on stalled negotiations for cutting Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE).

The issue of tank and troop cuts, which Bonn says must precede unification, will now go to the highest level — presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Disarmament is the key to German unity," a Bonn official said. "It is of the greatest importance that we have concrete results this year."

Finance Minister Theo Waigel, expressing Bonn's impatience in Parliament today, pleaded with opposition Social Democrats not to block a treaty on merging the East and West German economies on July 1.

President Francois Mitterrand will underscore his support for Nato and strongly back allowing a unified Germany to join the alliance when he travels Friday to Moscow for a summit.

Nato scraps defence targets

BRUSSELS, May 23. (Reuters): Nato appealed to Moscow today to stop dragging its heels over a landmark treaty to cut Europe's conventional forces and began a major review of its strategy in the post-cold war era.

Alliance defence ministers agreed at the end of a two-day meeting in Brussels to scrap long-standing defence spending targets.

They also decided to lower the alert status and availability of some forces and cut the number of training exercises — as a result of the military demise of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact since Eastern Europe abandoned old-style communist rule.

Statement

They said in a statement that the risk of a massive surprise attack on the West would be virtually eliminated if a treaty to cut Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) is signed and implemented.

"We appeal to the Soviet Union to show a constructive attitude," Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told a news conference. "There is a kind of foot-dragging... we hope they (the Soviets) will be able to overcome whatever internal obstacles may be there."

US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said he hoped next week's summit between President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev could give the stalled CFE talks in Vienna a firmer boost.

Agreement

He said he still thought an agreement was "entirely possible" this year, although the Russians would have to take the initiative. British Defence Secretary Tom King said yesterday that an agreement may not be signed this year, as has been widely expected.

The CFE treaty would cut US and Soviet troop levels in Central Europe to 195,000 on each side and scrap thousands of tanks, artillery pieces and armoured vehicles, allowing both Nato and Warsaw Pact to cash in on the "peace dividend."

Moreover, Nato has said there will be no summit of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) later this year if no treaty is signed.

The talks have stalled over problems in negotiating aircraft cuts, Soviet fears about the military might of a unified Germany and the sudden military collapse of the Warsaw Pact.

Tenets

Woerner rejected Moscow's demands that limits on German armed forces should be discussed in the so-called "two-plus-four" talks on German unification, which group the two Germans and the four World War Two allied powers.

Both Cheney and Woerner said a major review of Nato strategy would leave some basic tenets unchanged because of instability in the Soviet Union and parts of Eastern Europe.

They would include keeping US and Canadian troops in Europe, as well as nuclear weapons, and the alliance doctrine of collective defence — that an attack on one of its members would be treated as an attack on all.

The ministers agreed to drop a target of three per cent real annual growth in national defence spending, in force since 1977. There would be no replacement target.



Cheney

US bans chemical weapons

WASHINGTON, May 23. (Reuters): US President George Bush signed a law yesterday making it a crime for Americans to privately develop chemical or biological weapons or to help other countries acquire germ-warfare devices.

The law brings the United States into compliance with the biological weapons convention, a 1972 international agreement signed by 110 countries that prohibits governments from possessing biological weapons.

It bars individuals from developing germ-warfare devices from bacteria, toxins or viruses but does not bar research or development.

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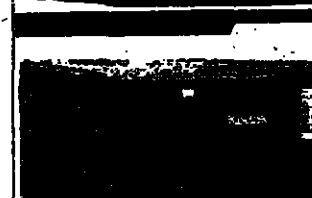
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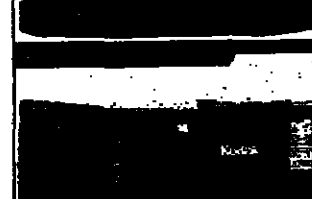
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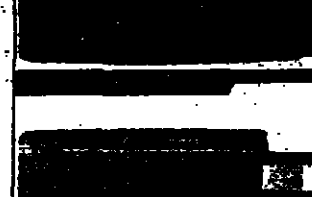
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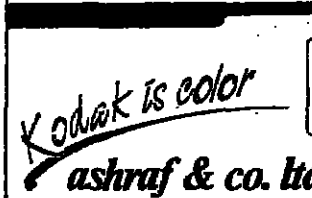
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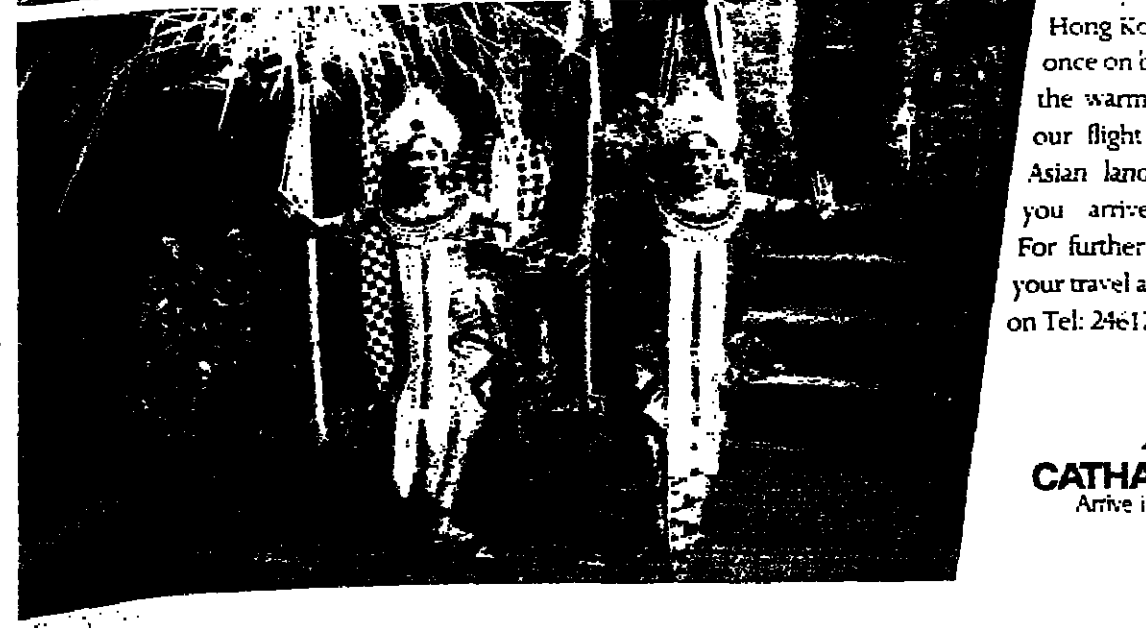
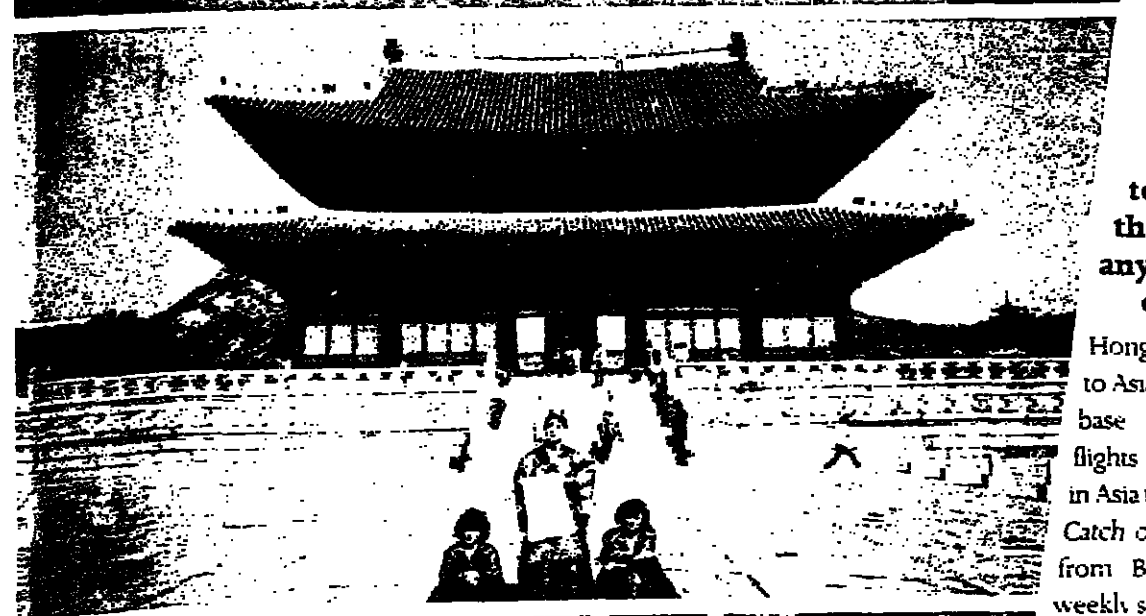
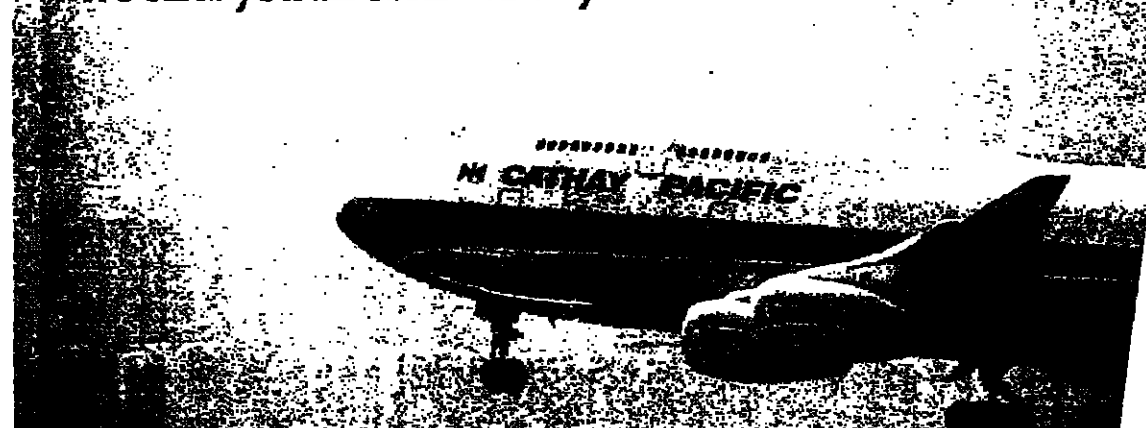


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America welcomes Yemeni unification

WASHINGTON, May 23. (Agencies): The United States said yesterday that it welcomed the union of North and South Yemen because it could improve stability and security in the region and that it will review the status of the new state on the US list of terrorist nations.

"We welcome this declaration as a measure that could improve stability and security in the region," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

Pro-Western North Yemen and Socialist South Yemen merged yesterday to form a nation of 13 million people, the size of France in the southwestern corner of the Arabian peninsula. North Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh was elected president by the Parliaments of both states.

The United States last month re-established diplomatic relations with South Yemen after a 30-year break.

But South Yemen remained on the US list of nations that sponsor terrorism.

"We've made it clear... that no state will be removed from this list without taking concrete steps which end support to groups involved in terrorism," Tutwiler said. "We are studying the situation, and the issue of terrorism, that issue would be part of the review process which will be going on."

Tutwiler said it had not been decided whether the US embassy would be in Aden or Sanaa.

South Yemen was the only Arab state which adopted a Marxist system of government, while North Yemen was considered a conservative state where tribes still enjoy a wide scale of influence in the country's affairs.

Soviet influence in South Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, began to wane as pro-democracy changes in Eastern Europe, added to Moscow's own internal difficulties, made it clear that the Marxist state would either have to go it alone or unite with North Yemen.

Earlier this year, East Berlin stopped paying the wages of some 200 East German military and technical advisers stationed in South Yemen. When Aden refused to foot the bill, the East Germans and their families left the country. Sanaa-based Western diplomats said Cuban advisers in Aden have also left, leaving just a handful of Soviets.

Although both Yemens had declared their intention to unify as early as 20 years ago, the changes in Eastern Europe, and a political decision by the Soviet Union to stop aiding Aden, pushed unity forward, the diplomats said. The Yemens developed separately since gaining independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Afghan rebels plan key council polls

PESHAWAR, May 23. (Reuters): The Pakistan-based Afghan rebel government said yesterday it would begin elections next month for a traditional grand council to choose a new government ready to take power in Kabul.

The elections to the 2,500-member council or Loya Jirga will take two months, the rebel government's top election official, Sayed Ahmad Gailani, told a news conference.

The vote will be held in rebel-controlled areas of Afghanistan and Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran.

Gailani said all six rebel parties in the Afghan interim government would take part.

Previous election plans were held up by differences among the rebel parties fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul. One party, Hezb-i-Islami of radical leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, left the interim government last year.

A coalition backed by Hekmatyar held its own rival elections for a provincial council last February in the eastern Afghan province of Kunar.

Yemenis joyously celebrate unity of nations

ADEN, May 23. (Reuters): Chanting "unity is power," thousands of Yemenis thronged the streets of Aden to celebrate an end to 300 years of separation.

Squadrons of Soviet-built MiG-23 fighters criss-crossed the blue skies of the port city on the southern tip of the Red Sea as nearly 11,000 people from North and South Yemen joined hands in celebrations marking the creation of

the Yemeni Republic.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh with his deputy Ali Salem Al Beidh at his side, waved to the crowds who filled the stadium as military units filed past.

Saleh, former president of North Yemen, travelled to Aden on Monday to announce formally the merger with the previously Marxist south to create the most populous country in the Arabian peninsula.

Men and women, many wearing the traditional dresses of different regions of the country, danced to the beat of drums and sound of flutes.

Hundreds of others marched in the streets of the port city chanting "Allahu Akbar" and "Unity is Power," as women watching from rooftops ululated to express their joy.

The three-hour celebrations, which continued into the night with firecrackers, were televised live from Aden, proclaimed the economic capital of the unified country of 13 million people.

In Sanaa, the old capital of North Yemen and now capital of the united country, thousands of clapping and cheering people crowded the national sports stadium for traditional music, dagger-dancing and speeches supporting the merger.

Fireworks lit the sky over buildings, decorated with streamers of coloured lights for the occasion while banners with slogans declaring "Yemeni unity is an immortal victory for democracy, development and freedom" hung from street corners.

People on the streets praised the merger but large numbers of soldiers patrolled the street on foot and in cars watching for any trouble.

Political sources said dozens of Muslim fundamentalists trying to disrupt a pro-merger rally on Monday were arrested.

But the roars of the crowd at the stadium rally appeared to dominate the festive mood of the city.

"The unity was the hope of everyone and it is making all the people happy because it is the reunification of father and son, brother and brother," said Saleh Hauder Said.

But the roars of the crowd at the stadium rally appeared to dominate the festive mood of the city.

"The unity was the hope of everyone and it is making all the people happy because it is the reunification of father and son, brother and brother," said Saleh Hauder Said.



Yemeni union announced

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh (2nd from left) announces the union of North and South Yemen May 22 as Palestinian Liberation

Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat (right) and Vice President Ali Salim Al Beid (3rd from left) look on. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fear cheating in Algerian poll Islamists threaten boycott

ALGIERS, May 23. (Reuters): Algeria's powerful Muslim fundamentalists fear cheating in the first multi-party elections since independence and threaten to boycott the poll if the government does not ensure it is fairly held.

Abassi Madani, spokesman of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), said yesterday the administration was showing increasing bias toward the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) in the run-up to the June 12 election.

"The regime has begun to get involved in partisan activities, especially the administration. This brings out a suspicion of likely cheating in the elections," Madani told Reuters in an interview.

"We may boycott the elections if it appears we are

unable to maintain their security," he said.

President Chadli Benjedid vowed on Monday, the first day of the official campaign, that next month's elections for municipal and provincial councils would be free and fair.

Madani accused the state-run media of bias toward the FLN and said many young people — a key pillar of support for the fundamentalists — were having trouble getting ballot papers.

"What we do in the election campaign finds no place in the newspapers, radio or TV," Madani said.

He said the state had provided free transport for tens of thousands of FLN supporters who marched on the capital last Thursday but denied similar facilities for a FIS march last month.

US used secret chopper in Gulf

FAYETTEVILLE, North Carolina, May 23. (AP): The army used an awards ceremony at Fort Bragg to take the wraps off a secret, large-based helicopter unit that has been operating in the Gulf for 2 1/2 years.

The unit, task force 118, will soon become part of the 82nd airborne division, said Lt. Col. Ed Hughes, the unit's commander.

Action

Twenty-five members were honoured Monday for their roles in creating the unit, developing its equipment and for action in the Gulf against Iranian gunboats.

Chief warrant officer Gregory Hunter Odum was responsible for creating or finding much of the sophisticated equipment used by the unit in its secret missions, Hughes said.

Odum said most of the equipment was modified from what is normally used by the military, although some was bought commercially. The commercial equipment included an underwater breathing bottle and diving ladders, which are light aluminium roll-up wire ladders that can be suspended below a helicopter and used for picking up downed crews.

Bought

"The unit uses heavily modified OH-58D helicopters — the most sophisticated and advanced helicopter in the army today," Odum said.

Originally designed as a light, unarmed scout helicopter, the OH-58 was upgraded in the mid-1980s with improved night observation equipment that gives the helicopter a distinctive ball on top of the rotor.

The armed version of the helicopter was developed in less than four months when the navy asked for help escorting tankers in the Gulf. The navy's shipboard helicopters do not have comparable night-fighting equipment.

Armed

In addition to rockets, the armed OH-58D can carry pods on pylons on each side of the helicopter that are armed with Hellfire air-to-surface missiles, Stinger anti-aircraft missiles or 50-calibre machine-guns, Odum said.

The two-man flight crews fly most exclusively at night with night-vision equipment and mostly over water.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

8 killed in WW II mines: Eight workers involved in the dismantling of World War II mines in eastern Libya have been killed by an explosion, the official Libyan news agency Jatta reported Wednesday.

Jatta said the victims were a West German explosives expert, two Libyans, three Mauritians, a Ghanaian and a Thai who were working for a West German company. The dispatch, monitored in Rome, said the explosion occurred Monday in an area 95 kilometre (60 miles) southwest of Tobruk, a coastal city near the border with Egypt.

Northeastern Libya, a former Italian colony, was the scene of some fierce World War II fighting involving German, British and Australian forces, and reports of discoveries of undetonated mines are reported occasionally by Libya. (AP)

Claims talks end: Iran and the United States on Wednesday ended three days of talks on an \$11-billion claim by Tehran over US military contracts broken after the 1979 Iranian revolution, a US diplomat said.

Neither US nor Iranian officials would indicate if there had been progress in the talks. But they said a fresh round of negotiations between US State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer and his Iranian counterpart Goudarz Eltekhar-Jaromi would be held in a few weeks. (Reuters)

Residents urged to evacuate: Southern rebels announced Tuesday a five-day bombardment of a major government-controlled town on the white Nile river and urged residents to evacuate.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army said in a clandestine broadcast that the bombardment of army barracks began May 15 in Malakal, 640 kilometres (394 miles) south of Sudan's capital, Khartoum.

"Citizens living in town and near army barracks must evacuate Malakal to avoid being caught in the crossfire. We are serious," the broadcast said. It was monitored in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, but there was no independent confirmation. (AP)

PLO granted observer status: The Socialist International, one of the world's oldest and largest political associations, on Tuesday granted observer status to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Egypt's national news agency Mena reported. The agency said the decision was reached at the first day of a conference of socialist leaders and that it was agreed by delegates from Israel's United Workers' Party or Mapam. (Reuters)

Flag, anthem contest: The Arab Maghreb Union launched a contest on Wednesday to design a flag and compose an anthem for the group linking Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. Contestants have until June 10 to submit ideas, according to a statement issued by the group's presidency currently held by Tunisia.

The union, created in February last year at a summit in the south Moroccan city of Marrakesh, is designed as an economic community. (Reuters)

Hotel bombed 3 killed in Kabul

KABUL, May 23. (UPI): Rockets fired by US-backed rebels slammed into Kabul for the third straight day today, killing at least three people at the city's main hotel and wounding eight, officials and witnesses said.

Officials have said the rebels have stepped up attacks on the capital since last week to coincide with preparations for a traditional grand council, known as a Loya Jirga, which is expected to approve major changes in the constitution.

An official spokesman said 26 rockets had hit the city up until 1 p.m. today. He said three people were killed and eight wounded.

Staff at the Intercontinental Hotel said the front office manager, a driver and a security guard were killed by a rocket which exploded about 50 yards (m) from the main entrance.

They said the three had walked out of the building to examine damage from three other shells which had hit the hotel grounds moments earlier.

The blasts smashed windows in the building on a hillside overlooking the city but caused no other damage.

Only two guests were registered at the hotel, but neither was hurt. Rocket attack last December caused major damage to the hotel, but no casualties.



Hunger strikers greeted

Israeli Jewish peace activist Abie Nathan (left) greets May 22 Palestinian activist Faisal Hussein (right) who is on a hunger strike at the Red Cross headquarters in occupied east Jerusalem. At centre is Arab Press Association head Radwan Ayyash, also on a hunger strike. (Reuters wirephoto)

Afghans look to US-Soviet summit for peace

KABUL, May 23. (Reuters): Afghan President Najibullah is trying to put a new face on his government, but Moscow and Washington will have to put his nation on the road to peace, say diplomats and political analysts.

Moscow has underwritten Najibullah's government in the almost 12 years of civil war against mujahideen rebels, who get much of their support from Washington.

"They key to a solution to the Afghan problem is in the hands of the Soviet Union and the United States," Mohammad Asghar told Reuters.

Asghar, a 78-year-old, widely respected

former university rector, heads the National Salvation Society, a Kabul-based neutral group trying to help stop the war.

Asghar last week turned down an invitation to join the new cabinet announced on Monday.

"At this stage, no one is willing to side with Najibullah. They don't want to be branded (as being part of his regime)," said one diplomat.

The government brought many Western-educated technocrats into the new cabinet, but the ruling party clung to most major portfolios such as defence.

Without people like Asghar, efforts by Najibullah to project himself as a peacemaker will lack credibility, diplomats say.

Najibullah, former head of the feared Khad security police, is seen as having only a small political base, and if there were elections it is unlikely he would win, the diplomats say.

The president has also been pushing ahead with significant constitutional changes, erasing much of the heritage of the 1978 Marxist revolution in his bid for national reconciliation.

Three changes must be approved by a

grand assembly of tribal leaders, the Loya Jirga, due to meet later this week.

A decision-making body used by Afghans for centuries, the assembly will have little impact because nearly half the population will not be represented there, Asghar said.

About five million Afghans are refugees and another two million live in rebel-held areas or away from their homes.

Najibullah was written off as a certain loser when Soviet troops withdrew over a year ago, but he has clung on and grown in stature.

United Yemen faces test of democracy

Rocky transition lies ahead

SANAA, May 23. (Reuters): A rocky transition lies ahead for the Yemeni Republic, a newly-unified state of 12 million people at the southern corner of the Arabian peninsula.

An overwhelming majority in North and South are determined to make the long-cherished dream of unity work. Many foreign observers believe progress towards a strong representative democracy is likely.

"I don't think the Yemenis will permit themselves to be pushed around," said a diplomat in Sanaa, the northern capital which became the capital of the united country yesterday.

But it will not be an easy marriage. Neither traditionalist North nor socialist South has experience of the multi-party system under which the union hopes to flourish.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh proclaimed the merger in Aden, the South Yemen capital which will be the main commercial centre.

The proclamation, and the choice of the North Yemeni leader as the head of the united state, were endorsed by parliaments of both countries and by roars of approval from an Aden crowd that included many northerners.

Yemenis celebrated by dancing far into the night.

Saleh and southern leader Haider Abu Bakr Al Attias, who is due to become prime minister, agreed in advance on a 30-month pause before elections are held.

"The transition period will see quite a lot of difficulty but there is a very considerable commitment on both sides to make it work," a senior Western diplomat told Reuters.

"Most people are aware of the dangers to the stability of the country as a whole from competing political systems," he said.

Political sources said the popularity of Saleh — who stabilised North Yemen after a bitter, monarchist-republican civil war and a series of bloody coups — will help support the transitional government.

He was promoted from colonel to lieutenant-general yesterday, making him the top military officer in the new state.

But while the government-controlled northern newspaper Al-Thawra said that "no one had voted against the merger," 23 members of North Yemen's 159-man parliament did not cast votes to ratify the new constitution.

The reluctant ones are Muslim fundamentalists wary of union with the secular South, even though Islam will be the new state's religion and the Muslim sharia code will be the basis of its laws.

Fundamentalists tried to disrupt a pro-unity rally in Sanaa on Monday. Political sources say dozens of people were arrested.

While the party system of the new state has not yet taken shape, Yemenis already speak of "the Muslim brothers" — a fundamentalist movement strong in Egypt and several other Arab states — as the best organised opposition in the country.

Rumours kill in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon, May 23. (Reuters): In the rolling green hills of southern Lebanon, a hotbed of murderous tensions and fears, even rumours can be deadly.

Missionary Bill Robinson left a middle-class American home to work for Lebanon's orphaned and handicapped and paid for his dream with his life.

His widow Barbara, whose husband was killed on March 27, told Reuters that a malicious lie prompted commandos to shoot him.

She said the lie, which security officials and independent sources agree was just that, claimed he was planning a Jewish settlement in the so-called security zone north of Israel's border.

Such scares have been fairly common in recent years in an area where commandos, the Israeli Army, the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia and UN peacekeepers have been competing for influence since 1978.

Barbara said her husband "felt before his death something bad would happen but he didn't think of running away. He only wanted the plight of handicapped and orphaned children known to the world."

Lebanese friends say the Robinsons were innocents in a guilty land. The people of the southern town of Hasbaya insisted Robinson be buried there in appreciation of his work.

Barbara, cradling a two-year-old orphan, said she would stay on for the same reason they came in the first place.

"The whole idea of our coming here seven years ago was the question, does God answer a prayer?" said Barbara, 45, surrounded by her four teenagers and 19 handicapped or orphaned Lebanese children.

"I still believe God does. He wants these children helped. I couldn't consider leaving. All I have to do is to look at the children and I know we must stay."

Three gunmen broke into the couple's former children's home at a renovated school in the nearby village of Rashaya Al Foukhar. They shot Bill in a bathroom while Barbara and the children were ordered to sing hymns around the piano in the sitting room.

"We waited for about half an hour until we felt sure we were alone and then prepared to put the children to bed. It was then we found Bill shot — three bullets, one in the neck and two in the back," Barbara said.

She said the gunmen stole \$3,000 and two small sapphires donated to their private charity instead of cash.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front (NRF), a leftist alliance opposed to Israel's military presence in the south, said it had killed 59-year-old Robinson.

Barbara said the NRF had swallowed rumours circulating locally "saying we were spies, we wanted to build a Jewish settlement or steal Lebanese land."

"What really happened is that when Bill was killed, we were forming a foundation to apply to the Beirut government to use land for an orphanage, and a care facility for young adults and the handicapped and a home for the elderly," Barbara said.

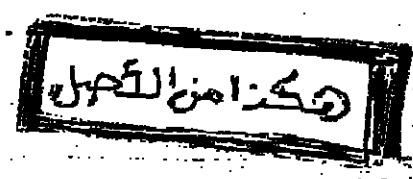
"It was an idea, a hope and a dream. We never even submitted the application but some people realised the project would cost a lot of money and tried to cash in on it."

"The problems accelerated and accelerated until they climaxed with his death," she said. "The population got swept with it all and the fact we were Americans made us synonymous with Israel."

"We aren't even Jewish. We came to Lebanon to take care of Lebanese."

Nor, said Barbara, were they Christian fundamentalists — just committed Christians who felt that playing a daily round of golf and owning a small company in Wenona, Illinois, was not enough.

"We decided to show our children what it meant to serve God," she said. "We felt impressed to come to Lebanon from Wenona to help a few children and it just increased because needs here are so great."



Unrest

(Continued from Page 1)

Seven Palestinian labourers near Tel Aviv on Sunday. Authorities said the gunman was insane.

The decision to hold the debate in Geneva rather than UN headquarters in New York has prompted speculation that a deal had been struck, with Arab diplomats agreeing not to press for a US visa for Arafat and Washington prepared to consider action.

Safieh had called the press conference to announce that he was on an indefinite hunger strike. He was in effect joining about 50 Palestinians in East Jerusalem who have stopped eating since Sunday to demand international intervention to protect Palestinian lives.

The United States is ready to consider supporting the dispatch of United Nations observers to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Secretary of State James Baker said today.

Baker told a White House news conference: "We would be prepared to discuss the question of a UN observer team if that indeed comes up at the UN Security Council session."

The Security Council is supposed to meet in special session on Friday in Geneva. It is moving from New York because Arafat wanted to address the council and has been blocked by the United States in the past from obtaining a visa.

The meeting comes after a tornado of violence in Israel and the occupied territories following the murder Sunday of seven Palestinian labourers by an Israeli. At least 13 people died and 800 were wounded in subsequent clashes.

US President George Bush told Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak today that the United States was taking steps to open its doors to Soviet Jewish immigrants, an Egyptian presidential spokesman said.

"Bush conveyed during his (telephone) conversation the message that the United States was making arrangements to open its doors to Soviet Jews," Mohammed Abdel Moneim, head of information at the Egyptian presidency, told Reuters.

Baker denied that President George Bush had told Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak the United States would accept more Soviet Jewish immigrants than planned this year.

"It's my understanding that the President did not offer to take in more Soviet Jews," Baker said. "The United States already planned to take 70,000 Soviet immigrants this year compared to 50,000 in 1989 and about 14,000 in 1988."

Arab anger is running high over a massive influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, while the United States — often their first choice — has imposed a strict quota on the immigrants.

In Washington, the White House confirmed that Bush had spoken to Mubarak but would give no details.

The United States said that this year it will accept 70,000 Soviet citizens, a large majority of them Jews. Last year it admitted fewer than half of that number.

Israeli Labour leader Shimon Peres today suggested that Israel should settle Soviet Jews in the country's Negev Desert in an apparent bid to allay Arab fears over the immigration issue.

"I think to overcome a desert is less expensive than to overcome hostility. It will be far more economic to settle (immigrants) in the middle of the Negev Desert," Peres told Cairo-based foreign correspondents.

He was elaborating on remarks he made yesterday during a speech to a conference of the Socialist International.

Commenting on Mubarak's warning of the threat of a new Middle East war, Peres said:

"I can understand the statement. But my view is a little bit different. What I expect is not a confrontation but a dialogue."

Summit

(Continued from Page 1)

previous summits are binding and permanent. We are modifying our position not changing it."

The latest draft reaffirms the Casablanca summit's decisions but the United States and Israel are likely to interpret the dropping of Casablanca's reference to Resolution 242 as a step backwards in the Arab position.

The resolution guarantees the right of all states in the region to live within secure borders. It has been at the centre of Middle East peace moves ever since it was passed.

Delegates said Iraq, at odds with Washington and the West over its military industrialisation programme, led a campaign not to bow to US advice.

"There was pressure from one of the states present... the Iraqis want to close the door on the Americans in the Middle East," one pro-Western delegate said.

Iraq, riding high on a wave of support for its right to acquire military technology, was backed even by Arab states traditionally seen as Washington's allies.

"We didn't come here to defend America... how can we fail to back the country which defends the whole region (the Gulf)," said one foreign minister.

The US document particularly upset Iraq by accusing it of irresponsible statements and asking Arab states to try to tame its actions and rhetoric.

"The US recognises that Iraq has an important role to play and that it can be a significant force for good — or bad," it said.

The minister failed to complete the text of a message for

President George Bush yesterday linked the latest wave of violence, in which at least 22 Palestinians and one Jew have been killed, to the absence of progress towards Middle East peace, implicitly blaming Israeli intransigence.

In an official statement, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said: "Linking the violence to the peace process is liable to be seen by certain groups as a reason to continue the violence in the hope of attaining their ends."

The occupied territories were largely quiet today after three days of widespread violence.

The army maintained a curfew on more than a million Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and barred Palestinians from entering Jerusalem while Israelis celebrated the 23rd anniversary of the capture of Arab east Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war.

About 50 armed Jewish nationalists marched under heavy police guard through Arab areas of the city today to the Temple Mount, a site holy to Muslims and Jews.

A crowd of about 200 Palestinians shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great) threw stones at them when they tried to enter the Haram Al-Sharif (noble sanctuary), site of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens also criticised Washington for praising Jordan's security forces, which put down Palestinian protests over the killings, while criticising Israel for quelling similar protests.

Shamir said yesterday that the Jewish state had a sacred right to Jerusalem and would never relinquish control.

He was speaking to a crowd of several thousand gathered in east Jerusalem at the Wailing Wall, Judaism's holiest shrine, as Arab-Israeli violence spread to the disputed capital.

Earlier, police tear-gassed 200 Palestinian demonstrators taking a petition to the US consulate in east Jerusalem to protest against the murder of seven Palestinians on Sunday by a lone Israeli gunman. Authorities said the man was insane.

Witnesses said police waded into the crowd, which included three Israeli Arab parliamentarians and Muslim and Christian clergy and dragged screaming women away to waiting vans.

In the Old City, a petrol bomb was thrown into a home in the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem's Old City causing damage but no injuries, police said.

"We know that many are plotting against our sacred right to this city and this place," Shamir said to rousing applause.

"We will tell all of them and everyone in the world — no force in the world can separate the people of Israel from the capital of Israel."

Most of Lebanon was paralysed today by a general strike called by leftist parties to protest at the killings.

Women carrying Palestinian flags walked. Young girls in traditional Palestinian robes beat drums and blew bagpipes.

The Israeli parliament finance committee said yesterday they approved a 41-million-shekel supplement (\$20.5 million) to develop Jewish settlements in the occupied territories at the request of Shamir.

The Soviet Union accused Israel of instigating widespread violence against Palestinian Arabs and demanded swift international action to protect residents of the occupied territories.

The PLO will never consider arming Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip because it would give Israel an excuse to use lethal weapons against them, a Palestinian official said in remarks published in Kuwait today.



A Palestinian woman carries an automatic rifle in one hand and the Palestinian flag in the other and shouts slogans during a demonstration in Muslim West Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)



An Israeli zealot is physically thrown out of the Temple Mount by an Israeli policeman. (Reuters wirephoto)



An armed Israeli soldier stands aside as hundreds of young right-wing Israelis waving flags and singing songs pour through the Jaffa gate into the old city in celebrations marking Jerusalem Day.

Jordan

(Continued from Page 1)

bloodshed. An appeal by the Jordanian Parliament after a late night session yesterday said continued disturbances "will only benefit the enemy."

"Official reports indicated that only two people died and 25 were injured, including three policemen, during two days of riots in Palestinian refugee camps," Interior Minister Salem Masadeh said in an interview, counting the Irbid and Hittien deaths.

Political activists reported there were hundreds of arrests, but none were reported by the official media and a senior police official denied widespread detentions.

He said "some violent demonstrators, who broke into banks and shops and attacked police cars and stations, were detained briefly yesterday until police enforced order in camps."

On Tuesday, an unidentified resident of Hittien camp was accidentally killed by a gunshot

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World News Roundup

Europe

Le Pen to pay one franc: French extreme right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was ordered to pay a symbolic one franc (20 cents) in damages on Wednesday for having described Nazi gas chambers as a "detail" in the history of World War Two.

A civil court in the Paris suburb of Nanterre ruled that the fiery leader of the National Front Party had "committed a fault...for which he cannot say that he was only making use of his freedom of speech."

Le Pen made the statement, which outraged France's influential Jewish community, in a radio interview in September 1987. (Reuters)

Bored with politics: The Soviet people are fed up with politics on television, a Soviet broadcast official said on Tuesday, promising more Western programmes, culture and popular music in the future.

Plans are to transmit US and European programmes by satellite by the end of the decade, raise the number of national channels from two to five and increase international co-operation to improve scope and quality of programmes, said Mikhail Nezdov, president of the state committee for broadcasting.

On an experimental basis, he said, the Soviets will start developing satellite reception equipment this year for 1,000 public institutions, hotels and embassies. (AP)

Soviet-Vatican relations: The Soviet ambassador to the Holy See arrived on Wednesday on a mission to Rome and expressed optimism about solving problems between Moscow and the Vatican.

In March, Moscow and the seat of the Roman Catholic church established diplomatic ties for the first time since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution brought the officially atheistic Soviet state to power. The ties fell short of full diplomatic relations, but both sides agreed to exchange representatives.

Yuri Karlov, a Soviet diplomat whose former assignments include Rome, was appointed extraordinary ambassador of Moscow.

The Pope's diplomatic envoy to Moscow, Archbishop Francesco Colsonno, was in the Soviet Union this month to discuss Vatican-Soviet problems. Colsonno visited the Ukraine, where Ukrainian Catholics are demanding legal status. (AP)

Pope was bugged: Workmen honeycombed the Jasna Gora Monastery at Czestochowa with eavesdropping devices just before Pope John Paul II's 1979 pilgrimage there, *Solidarity's* Gazeta Wyborcza newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The devices at the shrine in southern Poland, which shelters the revered Black Madonna icon, were installed during an expansion of the monastery's electrical system in preparation for the Polish-born Pope's visit, the paper said.

The report is the latest in a series of revelations about eavesdropping in Poland carried out by the now-dissolved security service, which among other things had an entire department devoted to monitoring Poland's powerful Roman Catholic church.

The Solidarity-led government of prime minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, which took power in September, earlier revealed that hotels, foreign journalists and Solidarity citizens committee officers were bugged. (AP)

Call to quit: East German Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel, facing demands from his own party that he resign, said on Tuesday his controversial handling of former security police agents had the government's backing.

Abandoned by almost all his political friends, Diestel spent two hours with Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere defending his decision to employ thousands of ex-members of the despised Stasi police force and consult its former bosses.

"We have an agreed line on this issue and I have the mandate to continue it," Diestel, who is also deputy prime minister, said in a television interview after the meeting. (Reuters)

Ex-party boss found dead: A former Politburo member and ex-communist Party boss of Prague, Antonin Kappek, was found hanged on Tuesday at his daughter's country cottage and had apparently committed suicide, the state news agency CTK said.

Kapek, 68, previously tried to commit suicide last January when he was hospitalised after being found shot in the head near an isolated country house in Bohemia.

Kapek supported the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia that crushed the "Prague Spring" reforms in 1968 and now has officially been declared a mistake by the Warsaw Pact nations who took part.

CTK said Kapek was found hanged in his daughter's cottage in west Bohemia, and nothing was found to indicate involvement by any other person, it said. (AP)

Nato abandons base plan: Nato effectively abandoned plans for a \$500 million tactical fighter training centre on Tuesday after Turkey and Canada said they were not prepared to have it on their territory.

The project is the latest in a series to be dropped because of the revolutionary changes in Eastern Europe and the subsequent military demise of the Warsaw Pact.

Nato defence ministers meeting in Brussels had been due to decide whether to base the training centre at Konya in Turkey or Goose Bay in Canada.

The base, which had been under discussion for five years, would have trained pilots from 11 Nato nations in low-flying attacks. (Reuters)

Vassiliou to visit Lisbon: Cypriot President George Vassiliou will leave for a three-day visit to Portugal on Sunday, the official Cyprus news agency said on Wednesday.

It said Vassiliou would hold talks on UN efforts to revive stalled talks between leaders of divided Cyprus and the island's relations with the European Economic Community.

Cyprus has decided to apply for membership in the EEC but has not yet done so. It has been an associate member since 1972. The two signed a customs union agreement in 1987. (Reuters)

Talks on Warsaw Pact: Prime Minister Jozsef Ballaz said on Tuesday Hungary's first post-communist government would launch talks on the country's membership of the Warsaw Pact and seek entry to the European Economic Community.

Presenting a programme of national renewal, Antall also told parliament Hungary had achieved a bloodless revolution and that his incoming conservative coalition government would replace a "system of oppression by a system of freedom."

"The hour of great changes has come," he said in a two-hour speech to the 386 parliamentary deputies elected on March 25 and April 8 in Hungary's first free national poll since 1945. (Reuters)

Abuse of power: Former Prague Communist Party boss Miroslav Stepan was charged with abuse of power of a public official on Tuesday, the first communist to be put on trial after last year's peaceful revolution, the official CTK news agency reported.

The charges sum up Stepan's activity as Communist Party chairman in suppressing increasing public dissent in 1988-89. If convicted, he could face up to ten years in prison under Czechoslovak law.

Stepan allegedly abused the power of public official on Oct 28, 1988, when, as a member of the Prague Security Council, he instructed police chief Bohumil Carda to use water cannon and tear-gas against demonstrators. (AP)



A character sketch of East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere (right) and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl shaking hands prior to the performance of a mock funeral for the state of East Germany by a group calling itself 'The Bureau of Unusual Acting' in front of the chancellery building in Bonn. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mock funeral

A character sketch of East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere (right) and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl shaking hands prior to the performance of a mock funeral for the state of East Germany by a group calling itself 'The Bureau of Unusual Acting' in front of the chancellery building in Bonn. (Reuters wirephoto)

Africa

Call for dismissal: Nigerian Christians are calling for the dismissal of two key Muslim ministers they accuse of trying to impose Islam on the secular, multi-faith nation.

Oil Minister Jibril Aminu and Foreign Minister Rilwanu Lukman should go 'in the interests of peace and stability,' Archbishop Anthony Okogie, president of Christian Association of Nigeria, was quoted as saying in the Nigerian Tribune newspaper on Wednesday.

Religious tension has risen sharply in Africa's most populous nation since a failed coup attempt against military President Ibrahim Babangida on April 22.

The rebel junior officers, 10 of whom went on trial on treason charges on Monday, claimed they were defending the largely Christian central and southern regions against domination by the mainly Muslim north. (Reuters)

President quits party: Cape Verdean President Aristides Pereira said on Tuesday he would quit the West African nation's only political party in preparation for the country's transition to multi-party democracy, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported.

Pereira, currently general secretary of the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV), said he would leave the party he helped found 35 years ago, at a party congress scheduled for July, Lusa reported. (AP)

America

US on 'wrong track': For the first time in nearly a year, a clear majority of Americans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction, and a growing number express concern about the way President Bush is handling the nation's softening economy, according to a poll by the Washington Post and the ABC television network.

The survey also found the public continues to endorse Bush's management of US foreign policy as he prepares for his May 30-June 3 summit in Washington with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. (UPI)

US-Soviet joint weekly: Hearst Corp., one of the world's largest media groups, and the Soviet daily Izvestia said yesterday they have agreed to jointly explore publishing the first-ever uncensored weekly Soviet-American newspaper.

"Glasnost has opened tremendous opportunities and new opportunities demand new journalism," Vladimir Nadeine, a Washington, DC correspondent for Izvestia, said in a statement announcing the venture.

"Today there is no widespread, direct access to the Russian people through any independent Western publication. That is our audience," said John Wallace, foreign editor of Hearst newspapers. (Reuters)

Gorbachev offered chance to shop:

An up-scale apartment store has offered to close its doors to the public so that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa can shop in private during their visit to San Francisco.

"We have made the offer," said Brent McDaneland, a vice-president at I Magnin and Co., a San Francisco-based chain known for its fine women's apparel. "But we have yet to hear what Mrs Gorbachev's schedule is or what she might like to see." (Reuters)

Drug-smuggling investigation: A US coast guard officer assigned to a ship near President George Bush's summer retreat is among 10 current or former servicemen targeted in a drug-smuggling investigation, coast guard officials said.

Commandant Paul Yost told a news conference yesterday that one of the 10 servicemen was relieved of duties Friday when Yost learned that a 3-year-old Justice Department investigation was still active. (AP)

Asia

3 killed in Thai gunbattle: An accused drug trafficker trying to escape from police custody from a provincial court in southern Thailand was killed Tuesday in a gunfight that left two other people dead and 10 wounded, police said.

The suspect, Suphon Petchchara, and his younger brother, who attempted to free him, were killed in the battle along with a police warrant officer, said a police spokesman in Songkhla, 480 miles (772 km) south of Bangkok.

The brother, Sunthorn, 20, pulled a gun to free the suspect from a police officer transferring him from the court, according to police and government television reports.

The pair escaped in a pickup truck while firing a stream of bullets, but they got less than 500 yards (m) before crashing into a car, police said.

Equipped with five assault rifles, a grenade launcher, two pistols and a number of hand grenades, they opened fire from behind their truck at the police and naval personnel who surrounded them. A gunbattle raged for more than half an hour. In addition to the three killed, 10 people were wounded, police said. (UPI)

London police arrest five suspected of plotting to kill Rushdie

LONDON, May 23, (UPI): British police kept in custody today a group of people detained under terrorist prevention laws, and reports said the detainees were five Muslims arrested for plotting to kill the author, Salman Rushdie.

Rushdie, 42, has been in hiding since Feb 14, 1989, when the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini sentenced him to death for writing the Satanic Verses, a novel many Muslims regard as blas-

phemous. Scotland Yard said officers yesterday arrested an unspecified number of people under the prevention of terrorism act, under which they may be held for 48 hours to judge whether a case is established.

"A number of people have been detained at a central London police station in connection with possible terrorist offences," an official said, without giving any further details.

However, independent radio news said five Muslims had been arrested for plotting to kill Rushdie, who maintains that he did not commit sacrilege by writing the book with its fictional portrayal of Islamic personalities.

The Daily Telegraph said detectives from the special branch staged raids in London and Scarborough to net the five men of unspecified nationality, and that Scotland Yard had stepped up its opera-

tions after receiving reports that Iranian assassins had entered Britain.

The five, all Arabs, were held after raids in London and the northeastern resort of Scarborough involving more than 30 officers, the Daily Mail said.

Separately, the Independent newspaper said plans to publish two Rushdie short stories in a new limited edition had been abandoned because of fears it would aggravate Muslim feelings.

Crime against Palestinians condemned

Arab ministers pledge support

BAGHDAD, May 23, (Kuna): Arab foreign ministers yesterday said the international community and the Security Council in particular should shoulder the responsibilities in maintaining international peace and security in accordance with UN charters by imposing sanctions against Israel for its continual operations to demolish the Palestinian people.

The remarks were contained in a statement issued at the conclusion of their third working session here last evening.

The ministers condemned Sunday's

cruel crime against a group of Palestinian workers outside an Israeli colony in central occupied Palestine at the hands of an Israeli soldier.

The Security Council should administer the occupied territories temporarily to protect and guarantee the safety of the Palestinian people and their rights, the statement said.

The statement, carried by the Iraqi News Agency, said that the Arab ministers pledged complete Arab support for the Palestinian uprising to show a practical

pan-Arab response of the Israeli brutal and terrorist policies and practices. INA noted that such Israeli crimes fell in line with organised state terrorism to expell the Palestinian people out of their native land.

Support

The American stance that supports Israel contradicts what the American administration announces in defence of human rights, the statement said, calling on the Bush administration to condemn

such criminal acts and stop providing Israel with material support and political protection as long as it keeps challenging the international will and rejects peace.

INA learnt that the discussions have been signified with complete frankness and clarity, in a bid to preserve Pan Arab interest and to determine a united Arab political stance.

The Arab foreign ministers resumes meetings here today, INA said in conclusion.

Bahrain opens its doors to tourists

72 hrs - 7 days visas at airport

By Khalil Yousef
in Manama

BAHRAINI Information Minister and Chairman of the Higher Council for Tourism Tareq Al Muayad predicted Monday that the contribution of tourism to Bahrain's economy would greatly increase in the coming period. The minister said that various official circles in Bahrain are now more convinced than ever before of the great importance of tourism. In an interview with Arab Times, he called upon investors to utilise the great investment projects available in the Bahraini tourism sector.

He revealed that Bahrain is preparing a five-year plan for tourism and that the plan would be completed and approved before the end of this year. The minister said that the establishment of the Higher Council for Tourism came to promote tourism in the country and spread awareness about the importance of tourism. The council includes in its board a number of specialists.

The minister said that the council began its steps by organising a series of meetings for officials in charge of hotels in Bahrain. The meetings resulted in the hotels agreeing to donate money to the department of tourism with the aim to develop tourism sites. He added that the Touristic Enterprises Company in Bahrain has been essentially established by those donations.

Measures

The minister stressed that the Bahraini Cabinet has on several occasions approved measures

mainly aimed at developing tourism in the country. These measures have recently climaxed in the council of ministers decision to grant relaxations on the entrance of foreigners and their families, businessmen and expatriates residing in the rest of the GCC states. He described this decision as an important turning point for Bahraini tourism.

The minister and the chairman of the Higher Council for Tourism added that the tourist visas duration at the airport will be from 72 hours to 7 days. Moreover, the immigration authorities have allowed hotels to complete procedures for obtaining residences for their guests. This has greatly increased the number of tourists in Bahrain over the past few months. The minister said that the King Fahd Causeway has greatly helped in enhancing tourism in Bahrain particularly from the Gulf. Occupancy rate of hotels in the country are the highest in the Gulf.

Flow

Meanwhile, the general manager of Bahrain National Hotels Company Abdulrahman Al Murshed has expressed optimism at the Cabinet's recent decision. He pointed out that such a decision constitutes a sign for the flow of tourists into the country.

He expressed that touristic groups coming from GCC countries to Bahrain will increase

greatly, hinting that special arrangements will be set up to handle the numbers.

On the other hand, the deputy general manager of Bahrain-based Hilton Hotel Abdurrahman Al Sayed said that the Bahraini decision will contribute significantly in reactivating the tourism sector. To achieve targeted goals, the official has called for the enhancing of the necessary co-operation among the authorities concerned in order to provide the appropriate atmosphere for tourism.

He called on hotels in the country to offer the necessary recreational programmes to keep pace with trends in tourism. He added that the Tourism and Archaeology Department of Bahrain should develop its programmes to keep abreast with the objectives of tourism development.

The general manager of Bahrain Hotels Company Mohammed Bu Zaizi was quoted as saying that Bahraini hotels will conclude agreements with tourism offices in the GCC countries to organise tours.

The manager of Aradous Hotel Nabil Salman commented that the Bahraini Cabinet decision will activate the touristic movement during this summer, pointing out that the geographical location of Bahrain will help induce tourists from the GCC countries.

Ports authority

Call to use repair basin

THE managing director of the Kuwait Ship Repair and Building Company Mosa Jaafar Marafie has called on the Public Ports Authority to offer discounts on the ports for each ship which offers to use the repair floating basin of the company. He stressed the need for routing government purchase orders for marine vessels of varying sizes from foreign repair basins to the company.

He told a local daily that these three proposals will lead to the development of the repair building and maintenance in Kuwait, and will lead to a substantial growth in the national income, let alone offering the company the chance to re-assemble ships coming in parts from abroad.

He described the company's performance in 1989 as distinguished, because this year witnessed a remarkable increase in the operation cost reduction which led to securing KD117,099 as profit at the turn of the year.

He said the company was able to solicit work contracts, to the total value of KD4.5 million during 1989 only and that the profitability percentage of marine work remained higher than that of industrial works, and related competition remained low. He added that the previous stage witnessed great leaps in the development of marine work, even during the Gulf war period.

He said that the major problems that faced the company included delayed payments by clients, which at times exceeded three months, adding that it was an essential work requirement to oblige foreign companies contracted for work in Kuwait to use local contracting companies expertise, lest the current situation would lead them to seek competitive prices from companies in neighbouring countries.

He stressed the need to ensure that the local contracting companies did not re-sell their tenders to sub-contractors, or even share the execution works, pointing out that a legal clause must be interpolated in the contracts signed with these companies to offer an analytical account of the tender terms, highlight the bills of quantities and laying down the basis on which the total value of the proposal was calculated.

Over 677 guests at youth houses in '89

SOURCES at the ministry of social affairs and labour said that youth houses that were established in Kuwait in 1969 received 677 guests in the last year. Occupancy nights reached 1958 nights. The sources said that 394 guests were Saudi nationals, 255 Bahraini nationals and rest from different Arab and foreign countries. The youth houses are run by a specialised cadre working round the clock besides staff to supervise them during the night. The houses are subjected to

supervision of camps section of youths department of the ministry.

The sources pointed out that youth guest houses can receive 60 guests simultaneously who can live in these houses for a maximum of five days free of charge. But they are required to abide by the rules and charter of the houses the sources said and added that these houses aim at offering residence for youths free of charge and to allow guests to be friends with Kuwaiti youths.

Kuwait to continue assistance to Lebanon

DAMASCUS, May 23, (Kuna): Kuwaiti ambassador to Damascus Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Jassam yesterday said Kuwait will not halt assistance to Lebanon until stability is restored to that war-torn country.

The ambassador, in a press statement on the occasion of the arrival here of the third batch of Kuwaiti assistance to Lebanon, said that aid only reflected Kuwait's belief in national duty and its Arab sisters especially Lebanon.

He hoped that the legitimate Lebanese authority would soon spread its power over all national soil to ensure the country's unity, sovereignty and independence.

He spoke of other Kuwaiti efforts to help Lebanon namely the charity bazaar currently held in Kuwait for Lebanese orphans and handicapped and the blood donation campaign for Lebanon.

Kuwait was practically displaying its strong belief in unity of destiny for all the Arab nations and that any suffering in any Arab country is felt in Kuwait, the ambassador went on.

Record load last week

ACCORDING to an official source at the Ministry of Electricity and Water the consumption load record last Saturday made an unprecedented record in Kuwait.

The official told a local daily that the recorded load was 4,210 mega watt at a 45 degrees centigrade and that the load recorded on Friday was 3,720 megawatt at the same hour and under the same temperature.

The official pointed out that the difference in the load readings was 490 megawatt, and that the reason being the holiday on Friday where all official and private concerns are closed and there is little pressure on the public power grid.

He stressed that the ministry is prepared to take care of any emergency situations during this summer.

State-owned factories must not compete: Jader

By Nashaat Al Agha

THE assistant undersecretary of the ministry of public health for technical affairs Dr Tariq Al Abdul Jader has said that the medicine factory at Sabah medical area is very important because it supplies the ministry with many required drugs especially pills and salves.

The production of the factory was reduced after the establishment of factory of the Medicine Industries Company in Sabhan area. The old factory is now producing pills and drugs that are not produced by the new factory only in order to save public money and guide spending.

He added that there should not be competition between two medicine factories owned by the state. He added that some hospitals and health centres also prepare some medicines which should not be done by them at the present time after the opening of the new factories. The ministry set up a committee to solve the problem of production and distribution of drugs produced locally, he said.

Commenting on food and nutrition services of the ministry, Dr Jader said that supplies of foodstuffs are made according to tenders approved by the Central Tenders Committee of the state. He denied that a company is monopolising the supplies of food to the hospitals and health centres of the ministry. "We are concerned about the standard offered food and services. The ministry is dealing with different food and catering companies to supply it with foodstuffs and meals," he said.

He pointed out that the health ministry grants special concern to health services given by health centres. The ministry developed work by linking physicians of hospitals with physicians at health centres. "We established the family medicine centre to develop standards of physicians working in health centres. The ministry gave special concern to develop medical records and files of patients. The distribution of medicine is being made by the files. The labs of the ministry are also attracting the concern of ministry," he said.

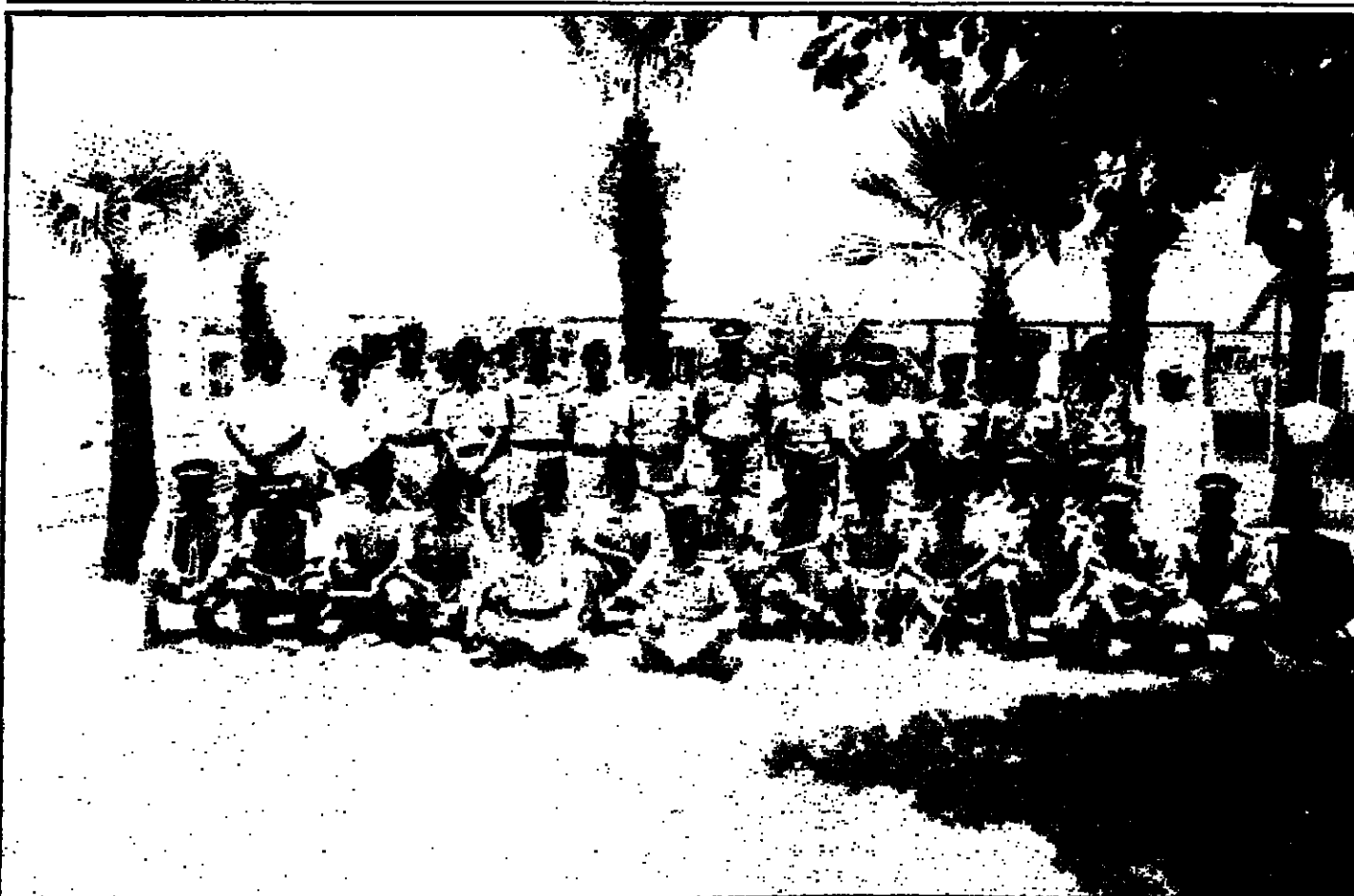
GOIC meeting

THE secretary general of Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultations (GOIC) Dr Abdulrahman Al Jaafari has inaugurated yesterday meeting organised by GOIC for the promoting of ferro-silicon projects in the Arab Gulf countries.

In his opening speech, Jaafari expressed hopes that the meeting will push forward the industrial development wheel in the region. He pointed out that the organising of the meeting by GOIC underscored its interaction with the industrial sector in the area.

The ferro-silicon project will contribute considerably in the industrial development of the member states, Jaafari said.

He added that the GOIC was involved in preparing such a project since 1984 and had tentatively followed up this project. He clarified that problems at the start of the project encouraged the GOIC to modernise its feasibility student.



Police college team felicitated

Director General of the Police College Brigadier Khaled Al Munayes patronised a celebration yesterday at the college's premises for the giving away of prizes to the sporting team as the winner of several games held recently.

During the ceremony, Brigadier Munayes made a speech in which he thanked the winning team for their efforts in this respect. Picture shows Brigadier Munayes with the winning team.

مركز النخيل

KUWAIT ... GULF

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 24-25, 1990

Labour ministry approves transfers of residence

Sponsors release not conditional

By Bassam Al Qassas

AL SEYASSA has learnt from sources at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour that the ministry has begun approving applications to transfer residence permits of workers without a release paper from the original sponsor.

Sources added that workers have the right to transfer their work permits to other sponsors or employers after a three-

year period stipulated by the law even if their current sponsor refuses to release them and agree to transfer their permits to others.

Labour departments at the various governorates have special sections to review and solve disputes between workers and their employers on residence permits. Sources added that the ministry and directors of labour departments can replace employers in granting release to workers who required a transfer of their work per-

mits if employers refuse to transfer them and if workers have right for a release, after meeting conditions came in article No. 16 of the ministerial decision No. 87/1989 on the organisation of manpower in the private sector.

They added that the Ministry of Justice does not take charge of all cases and proceedings submitted by labourers or their relatives in labour disputes. These cases are reviewed by courts as urgent ones. The Court of First Instance appoints

a judge to review different labour disputes in order to give labourers their rights as soon as possible.

The sources pointed out that in case of death of the sponsor, the labour departments can transfer residence permits of his workers to new employers if they finish three years of service with him before his death. They can also transfer their permits even if they do not complete three years period with him for human or organisational reasons, sources said.

Investment activity on the increase

Factors helping economy

THE deputy chairman of local investment department at a national investment company Sulaiman Al Gimlas has said that investment activities in Kuwait are on the increase. He described the law issued recently to establish investment funds as one of the good policies to benefit expatriates and small investors by getting good returns with little risks.

These funds will allow investors to benefit from experience in running funds at investment companies and added that there are many wealthy individuals who do not invest their funds. The decision allows these people to invest their funds in shares and bonds against good returns and interests. This will also improve the prices of good shares, he said. Gimlas pointed out that the recent agreement reached by Opec on oil prices, improvement of situation in the international

markets, stopping of war between Iraq and Iran and the issuing of the report of the Joint Economic Committee are all helping to activate the national economy.

Commenting on the problems that face local investments, he referred these problems to Al Manakh crisis that is still affecting the local market.

Investors still remember the crisis besides the big number of laws, restrictions and routine. He added that these restrictions should be reduced and red-tape removed and that investment companies should be merged to be more active and profitable.

The existence of investment companies in the stock exchange is necessary to develop the stock market, Gimlas said and described proposals to privatise the public establishments and departments as a good project which will activate the local economy.

Meanwhile, the Qatar News Agency reported that the GCC Commercial Co-operation Committee is to convene its 15th meeting during the first week of next month.

It added that the committee which groups the ministers of commerce in the member states will debate several topics including the allowing of GCC citizens to practice commercial activities in every state in addition to allowing institutions and productive units to establish its representative offices at any of the states.

The meeting will also discuss the possibility of establishing a centre for commercial arbitration among the GCC countries in addition to a report on the collective procurement of basmati rice.

In a related development, the GCC minister of commerce will hold a meeting tomorrow to prepare for the commercial co-operation committee meeting.

Sabah hopeful amid ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Benjedd, Yemen President Ali Abdullah Al Saleh and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who himself is still at odds with Assad.

The paper indicated that there were growing signs that Assad's participation in the summit was becoming more likely.

It quoted observers in the Syrian capital as saying they saw an implicit Syrian approval to attend the summit in the fine print of Assad's reply to the Iraqi President's message.

The Iraqi Justice minister who went to Damascus to invite Assad to the summit was told by the Syrian President that Syria would stand by Iraq in the face of any aggression.

The observers noted that Assad's response had an unmistakably friendly tone, which could be the beginning of the ice-breaking between Damascus and Baghdad.

Sheikh Saud, Kuwait's Ambassador to the US, Sheikh Saud Nasser Al-Sabah, acting on behalf of the Council of Arab Ambassadors in Washington, yesterday urged the US government to adopt a more effective and positive role in restraining Israeli practices against innocent Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Acting in accordance with a decision taken by the Council, Sheikh Saud met with US Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Robert Kimmitt to discuss all aspects of the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories.

Traore received

KUWAIT, May 23, (Kuna): President of Mali Moussa Traore today had talks with HH the Amir at Bayan Palace on bilateral relations and means to develop them in all fields.

Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs said that the talks also dealt with the Islamic, Arab and African issues in addition to issues of mutual concern.

He said talks were conducted with cordial atmosphere and characterised by mutual understanding and friendly spirit. His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday evening paid a visit to Mali President Moussa Traore at his residence in Al Salam Palace here.

Minister of Higher Education who heads the Mission of Honour, Dr Ali Al Shamlan was present.

Traore today visited Kuwait National Museum and Islamic Antiquities House.



Refai (left) during his tour of the market.

Free unloading plan at central market

MINISTER of State for Municipal Affairs, Mohammad Al Refai announced yesterday that Kuwait Municipality will start on June 1 the application of the "free unloading system" of vegetables and fruits at the Shuwaikh Central Market. According to the new systems, stalls at the market will not be rented permanently for merchants and those who have the goods available can unload and sell. Speaking to reporters after touring the market yesterday, the minister stressed that the new

system will increase the number of merchants working in the market and will ultimately lead to a reduction in prices. Headed that the Council of Ministers has decided to gradually withdraw stalls granted to importers who failed to import five trucks of vegetables each month. The minister added that according to the new system, a merchant can occupy more than one stall at the market provided he has more goods and stalls are available. The minister said that the free

unloading system has been successfully implemented at the Rigga vegetables market and it greatly helps in preventing monopoly of stalls, sub-renting them and helps increase number of active merchants in the market.

Refai said that the municipality will carry out a number of maintenance projects on the market including opening of roads to facilitate movement and that a new shed of 2,000 square metres in area will be built specially for marketing Kuwaiti produce.

UAE-Austria sign air transport agreement

ABU DHABI, May 23, (Kuna): The United Arab Emirates, UAE and Austria today signed an air transport co-operation agreement which grants privileges to national carriers of each of the two countries.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the UAE by Communications Assistant Under-Secretary Mohammed Yahia Al Swaidi and the Austrian ambassador to Saudi Arabia who is representing his country in the UAE.

Swaidi told Kuna that under the agreement, the Emirates Airways and the Gulf Air on one hand and the Austrian Airways Company on the other were accredited as the UAE and Austria national carriers respectively, and accordingly granted mutual privileges when using ports of both states.

Facilities

Apart from facilities on all aspects of air transport, the national carriers will hold regular talks to further promote bilateral co-operation and guarantee best implementation of the agreement rules, Swaidi said.

The airways companies of the two countries are being granted customs exemption and inspection fees cut as well as fuelling and catering advantages.

Seminars

Meanwhile a series of seminars on commercial relations between Austria and Middle East countries, will be held here from May 28 until June 29.

AMF session

ABU DHABI, May 23, (Kuna): General manager and Chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), Ousamah Faqih chaired the 73rd session of the executive managers council of the fund in Abu Dhabi today.

Faqih began the meeting by presenting a report on the activities and achievements of the fund in the first three months of this year.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (Kuna), Faqih said the working agenda of the meeting includes a study on the most important developments that occurred in the international financial markets during the first quarter of 1990.

They also report a rise in traffic on Gulf Air and Emirates Airways, which carry passengers from Kuwait via Bahrain and Dubai, for KD163. They also expect a demand for seats on Air Lanka, which flies passengers to Trivandrum via Colombo at a cost of between KD214 and KD206.

Lufthansa and BA lowered fares based on what is known in airline terminology as "fifth freedom" - carrying passengers from a country other than the country of origin or destination.

Airline sources explained that Gulf Air and Emirates can offer lower fares based on the "sixth freedom", which allows them to fly passengers via the airline's country of origin.

The Kuwait-India and the sub-continent sectors are the most lucrative. Sources say "there is a gentleman's agreement between airlines to follow the national carrier as far as fares are concerned."

Yield improvement is a global policy followed by nearly all airlines, except in the US which allows airlines to fix fares according to supply and demand. In Kuwait, YIP has been fairly successful and IATA fares are being implemented on the Kuwait-Europe, and Kuwait-Africa sectors.

Arafat visit

ADEN, May 23, (Kuna): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat yesterday arrived here on a few days visit to the Republic of Yemen. Arafat's visit aims at taking part in the Yemeni people's celebrations of the emergence in one country of the two Yemens which was officially announced in Sanaa earlier today.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

AMBITION is so powerful a passion in the human breast that however high we reach we are never satisfied — Nicolo Machiavelli, Italian political philosopher (1469-1527).

8-year effort result Summit to cut arms buildup

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): President Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at their upcoming summit hope to take key steps toward reducing the biggest military buildup the world has known.

Topping the agenda, and their bid for a place in history, will be reaching agreement in principle on a treaty that would be the first to require cuts in long-range nuclear missiles.

It will be the end result of an eight-year effort toward a Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) treaty that the two sides hope to sign by the end of this year.

The two leaders will try to make progress on two other arms control fronts: reducing conventional forces in Europe (CFE) — basically troops, tanks and aircraft — and banning production of poison gas, known as chemical weapons (CW).

Missiles

Ever since the atomic bomb triggered a quantum leap in warfare technology 45 years ago, the United States and Soviet Union have been trying to outdo each other on the accuracy and range of nuclear-tipped missiles capable of obliterating entire cities in minutes from a continent away.

At the same time they have on occasion placed control on the weapons to prevent one side from gaining too great an advantage over the other.

But unlike the START treaty, arms control agreements in the past always allowed growth in overall number of weapons.

Since the first bomb was conceived atop a Mesa at Los Alamos, New Mexico, the United States has built an arsenal of 12,082 nuclear warheads and the Soviet Union has 11,212, according to the Arms Control Association think tank.

The launch of these warheads, whether from silos, bombers, submarines or ships, is marked by astonishing accuracy.

The latest US land-based missile, the MX, is said to be able to put each of its 10 independently targeted warheads within 600 feet (200 metres) of their targets after a flight from an underground silo of more than 6,000 miles (9,500 kms).

Destroy

That would be enough to destroy or disable all but the most hardened underground enemy missile silos and very deep command bunkers.

US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, at the end of the Moscow talks last week, announced major progress on a START treaty that would cut overall nuclear missile arsenals by about 30 per cent.

They were able to compromise on a dispute over limits on cruise missiles launched by submarines and by aircraft.

The United States is considered to have a major edge to date in accuracy of both air- and sea-launched cruise missiles. This is due to the Western lead in microchip technology, which allows US missiles to carry super-accurate maps in their electronic brains and to hit a pinpoint target after a flight of 1,500 miles (2,500 kms).

Washington agreed to Moscow's demand that air-launched cruise missiles with a range greater than 375 miles (600 kms) be covered by the treaty, while obtaining Soviet agreement to exclude a new US conventional cruise missile called "Tacti Rainbow" that is now being tested.

Cruise

The two sides also agreed to limits on sea-launched cruise missiles outside the constraints of a START treaty. This will avoid the requirement that their numbers be verified.

The navy was shocked by the idea of Soviet inspectors crawling around secret US subs to count cruise missiles.

However, the progress in cutting nuclear weapons does not mean that arms control experts are working themselves out of a job. Once the START treaty is signed, work will begin on the START 2 accord aimed at making further cuts.

The movement toward democracy in Eastern Europe has made much of the military might in the region unnecessary, and the superpowers, along with NATO and Warsaw Pact nations, are negotiating a reduction in their forces while maintaining enough for security.

Both sides have agreed to accept up to 195,000 troops apiece in Central Europe, with the United States allowed to maintain 30,000 more outside the central zone.

What about the armies of European nations? The Soviet Union has proposed a limit up to 750,000 for each side for all troops in Central Europe, a proposal experts say is designed to constrain forces of a united Germany.

NATO balks at such an overall limitation. A key debate is over the maximum number of forces a single state can possess.

The treaty will require destruction of thousands of tanks, artillery pieces and armoured personnel carriers. It will also reduce the Soviet Union's conventional edge in the region.

After initial optimism that a CFE treaty could be signed by the end of the year, negotiations have hit snags and it is unclear whether the accord will be ready in time.

On chemical weapons, the two superpowers are expected to agree to cease production of all poison gas and reduce their stockpiles to 5,000 tonnes. Western estimates say the United States has about 25,000 tonnes and the Soviet Union 50,000 tonnes.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1612 — Sweden's King Gustavus II loses Elfsborg and Gulesberg to the Danes.
- 1689 — Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I signs treaties of alliance with Holland and Bavaria.
- 1890 — Italy reorganizes her Red Sea territories as colony of Eritrea.
- 1900 — Britain annexes Orange Free State in Africa.
- 1941 — German battleship Bismarck sinks British battle cruiser Hood in North Atlantic in World War II and more than 1,300 lives are lost.
- 1962 — London conference of Barbados, Windward and Leeward Islands ends with proposals of "little eight" to form New West Indies Federation.
- 1964 — Riot erupts at football match in Lima, Peru, and 300 spectators lose their lives.
- 1972 — United States and Soviet Union agree to project to put US and Soviet spacemen in orbit together by 1975.
- 1975 — US President Gerald Ford approves two bills providing more than \$400 million to aid resettlement of refugees from South Vietnam and Cambodia.
- 1977 — Soviet president Nikolai Podgorny is dropped from ruling Politburo without explanation.
- 1981 — Ecuador's president Jaime Roldos Aguirre is killed in plane crash in Andes Mountains near Peru border.
- 1983 — Abu Jihad, deputy commander of Palestine Liberation Organisation, accuses Libya of sending weapons and money to militants in PLO's largest faction, Fatah.
- 1984 — Israel and the United States reject a United Nations proposal for an international peace conference on the Middle East.
- 1988 — Tamil rebels kill eight Indian soldiers in two separate incidents in northern Sri Lanka.
- 1989 — Ethnic Turks demanding more rights clash with security forces in Bulgaria.

Palestinian rage explodes

Killing of workers fuels unrest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (UPI): The explosion of Palestinian rage over the killings of seven Arab workers revealed that the Palestinian uprising is far from over and the grievances that fuel it are as deep as ever.

In many ways, the killing of the workers by an Israeli Sunday and the subsequent eruption of violence in the occupied territories and Israeli Arab towns resembled the start of the Palestinian uprising — the intifada, in Arabic — nearly 30 months ago.

In both cases it was individual tragedy, not a political event, that triggered fierce clashes between Arab youths and Israeli soldiers.

In December 1987, riots started in the Gaza Strip and spread throughout the territories after the deaths of four Gazan workers in a traffic accident involving an Israeli truck driver.

Anger

The outburst of anger this week which once again began in the impoverished Gaza refugee camps, sprang from the acute personal vulnerability felt by Palestinians who see themselves at the mercy of any Israeli with a gun, and without political or economic recourse.

"We are afraid of people who have guns," said an Arab worker who arrived moments after the shooting. "Who is the terrorist — Palestinians or Israelis?" Life for the Palestinians, especially the 100,000 Gaza workers who commute daily to jobs in Israel, has become harder since the intifada began because of curfews and strikes. The prospects of a political settlement became remote with the collapse of the Likud-Labour coalition government two months ago.

"The basic conditions which caused the intifada to break out have not only failed to be eradicated, but have actually grown worse," wrote Ze'ev Schiff, military commentator for the daily Ha'aretz newspaper.

Hopelessness

Dedi Zucker, a Member of Parliament, said the violence was re-ignited because of a feeling of hopelessness among Palestinians.

"These insulted ones, these oppressed, these disgraced, our backyard workers, those who get rid of the rubbish of our houses, these hopeless ones took to the streets of beach, Sujaia and Burej (in Gaza) because they have no way out," he told Parliament.

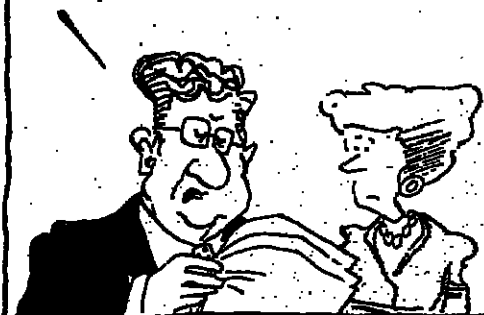
Israeli leaders, displaying rare unanimity, condemned Sunday's killings in Rishon Le Zion and portrayed them as the work of disturbed individual.

But several Israeli newspaper editorials blamed the incident on the political polarization in the

WHAT ARE ALL THESE ENVIRONMENTAL PROPOSALS?!



CLEAN AIR BILL, GLOBAL WARMING PACT, OZONE AGREEMENT...



I'M GOING TO TELL THE PRESIDENT IT'S ALL GARBAGE!!



THEN REMIND HIM THERE'S NO PLACE TO PUT IT



government and support shown for extreme elements by members of the government.

Adding to the Palestinians' sense of frustration is the lack of progress in the peace process. The expectations that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's peace initiative would bring some relief from Israeli occupation were dashed when he refused to approve a US plan for holding Palestinian Israeli talks.

The government remains as divided as ever over the peace process and paralyzed by the inability of the Labour and Likud parties to form a new government.

In addition, the government has become preoccupied with the absorption of thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants. Integrating the newcomers — not a resolution of the Palestinian problem — is viewed as Israel's biggest challenge.

While waiting to see if the killings will invigorate the languishing uprising, the military fears a new "cycle of hate" will be set in motion. In the past, many attacks on Israelis by Palestinian have been motivated by a desire for revenge rather than ideology.

"We have a grave problem with the growing number of people who have a personal account to settle," said Maj Gen Matan Vilnai, head of the Southern Command that oversees the Gaza Strip.

SPD split over unity policy

BONN, May 23, (Reuters): German unity is splitting the Social Democrats (SPD), Bonn's main opposition party, and forcing them towards a political hour of truth that could undermine their hopes of unseating Chancellor Helmut Kohl this year.

Once supremely confident that unity would boost its vote, the SPD is now at odds with fellow Social Democrats in East Germany and deeply divided at home over how to mount a challenge to Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU).

The party does not know if it faces only West German elections in December, as scheduled, or all-German polls that would require a far different kind of campaign.

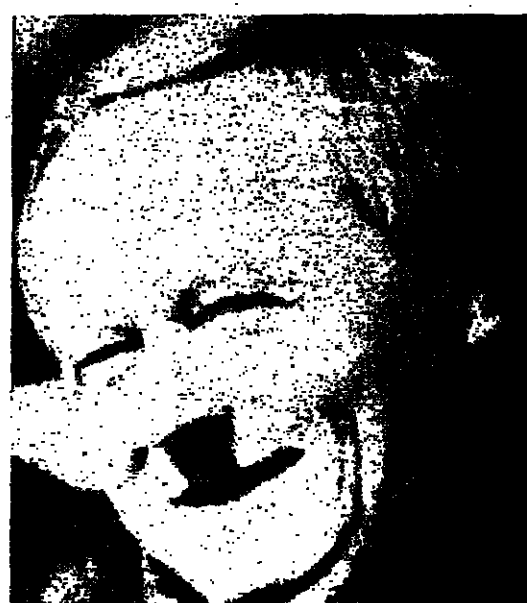
It is not sure its chosen candidate, Oskar Lafontaine, wants to run after barely surviving a knife attack last month and seeing many SPD members support the economic union Kohl's government has worked out with East Germany.

Predict

And it cannot predict whether Lafontaine's hopes of slowing down Kohl's headlong unity drive will seem statesmanlike or sly when voters come to pass judgement on it.

Everything could be totally different in three or four months' time, leading SPD strategist Peter Glotz complained on Tuesday. "We can't depend on opinion polls."

The crunch comes on June 22 when the treaty merging the two economies comes before the Bundestag, the upper house of Bonn's Parliament, for a



Lafontaine... not sure

last reading before taking effect on July 1. Until recently, the SPD complained about the high cost of unity — a line sure to win votes in a purely West German campaign — without having

to take responsibility because Kohl's coalition controlled both houses of Parliament.

At the same time, the eastern SPD, junior partner in the CDU-led coalition in East Berlin, was demanding and winning concessions on economic issues that would add to the overall amount Bonn will have to pay for unification.

In East Germany, they represent the people who want to have more and here in West Germany they represent the people who want to give less. CDU Secretary-General Volker Ruehe said. "That can't work in the long term."

The party was put on the spot on May 13, when a surprise victory in state elections in Lower Saxony produced an SPD majority in the Bundestag.

Kohl turned the victory into a dilemma by opting for early all-German elections, in which the CDU's clear pro-unity line in both East and West would probably have greater appeal.

Block

The SPD could block the economic treaty, but only at the cost of being stigmatised as the party that opposed German dreams of unity.

Latest opinion polls say more than four-fifths of all Germans support unity despite the problems it will cause of both sides.

Coalition leaders are already criticising the SPD for even considering slowing down unification and the tone of their attacks presages a vicious election campaign if the party dares to use its new-found majority against the treaty.

Letters to the editor

Namibians beware!

SIR: In its hour of need Africa did not abandon Namibia. She provided refuge to her children who were forced out by the inhuman and obnoxious S. African regime. Africa also gave the financial, educational, military and moral support that enabled Namibians to launch the war that gained them their independence.

With Namibia's independence and the prospect of black majority rule looming in S. Africa, Africa's centuries of domination by outsiders can be said to be nearing an end. It is therefore mind-boggling when one reads in the papers these days of non-Africans making it in their thousands to Namibia under the guise of experts coming to contribute towards the development of the country. As an African I hope our brothers, the Namibians will not be taken in by this cheap propaganda which is only aimed at siphoning off the little wealth left after the S. African plunder. Should there be a need for outside labour, I feel Namibians should turn for this within the confines of the continent and not the contrary.

The African continent is said to be employing the services of 100,000 so-called experts but this has in no way contributed to a qualitative change in the lives of the people. In spite of this the dollar accounts of this so-called experts continue to bulge out of proportion and the continent wallows in poverty.

The idea that non-Africans can help Africa to develop is a myth and should be dismissed with the contempt that it deserves. Conditions on the continent are not an exact replica as elsewhere, so no non-African can be a better expert on African affairs than an African.

So unless it is absolutely necessary Namibia should not open its gates for the flooding of non-Africans who will only come in to enrich themselves at the expense of the indigenous people and cap it all by trying to lord it over them by virtue of their lighter skins.

Namibians have a lot to learn from their brothers and sisters in other African countries who have had their generosity towards non-Africans turned into nightmares because of the activities of the latter. They should especially ask to be told about the activities of the Fatal Brothers,

the Daknaks and the Gubehandanis in Ghana, the Babus and Accads in Togo, the Jamils in Sierra Leone, the Chandirams and Zaglous in the Ivory Coast and a host of others in Central and East Africa.

Namibia cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of other African countries so to be forewarned is to be forearmed.

Maloumba Nkangaki,
Abbasia,
Cairo

Malayalam play

SIR: I read with much disappointment a letter published in the language section of a local English daily dated May 14, 1990, entitled "A note of criticism from a spectator" about the Malayalam social play "A Love Mantra From Ujjain" which was staged at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaites on Friday, May 11, 1990. Being the director of the play, I felt it my prime responsibility to respond to the cooked-up allegations, in order to clear the fog of suspicion created by the so-called spectator in the minds of those who could not attend the show.

The main allegation against us — Narmada Theatres — was that we changed the title of the play and thus deceived the public. In this connection the poor "note writer" could have just opened our souvenir which carries the playwright's letter, in his own handwriting, stating that the name change is fully endorsed by him and is with his permission and support.

This allegation leaves room for suspicion that Jose Valappad is a pseudo name of some trickster who did not even attend the play and has written something from his imagination with a view to malign my reputation and that of Narmada Theatres. Had he learned Malayalam language, he could have easily glanced through the souvenir and pacified himself before bringing forth such scandalous remarks.

It is a fact that among the fully packed audience of around 1,200 at the auditorium, none of them passed any sarcastic remarks as did the so-called Jose Valappad. Beyond our expec-

tations we had a well-disciplined gathering who did enjoy the play right from the beginning and they stayed back until the curtain closed in tune with the curtain music. Although we are well aware of the drawbacks, the enthusiasm and the encouragement from the public clearly upheld that the show was above average, if not superb.

The "note writer" claims that he was associated with the staging of the play ten years ago by Maanishada Theatres of Angamaly, Kerala. When contacted, Thampi, owner of Maanishada and Varughese Paul, the playwright dismissed any association with anybody named Jose Valappad, since the formation of the theatres. This clarifies that there is an organised move by certain anti-social elements among the community who are all out to tarnish the image of certain individuals and organisations through their influence in a faction of the press media.

The writer bluntly attacks me with a question "What did Jayan Pattathu do as a director?" The reply is that whatever you saw on the stage (if you have seen) was the creation of Jayan Pattathu as a director. Who could squeeze out the inborn talents of the participants and the product was the result of a healthy teamwork. If you have not understood anything, it may be because you do not have even the basic knowledge in stage performance. Sitting in glass castle the critics could pelt stones on the performers. You should come down and be the organiser or director to feel the difference that rose blooms on thorny stems. Anybody will welcome creative and healthy criticism, but criticism for the sake of criticism and to average someone is ridiculous.

In our souvenir under caption "Just a minute" the last sentence read as follows: "Ultimately, you are the judges and we rely on you." In that sentence the "you" means the art loving community and not the so-called fake critics.

Jayan Pattathu,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Algeria

Nomads taste democracy

EL BAYADH, Algeria, (Reuters): The ripples of democratic change have reached Algeria's grassy heartland, where nomadic shepherds and turbaned tribesmen are getting their first taste of multi-party politics.

As in Algiers, where President Chadli Benjedid launched a multi-party democracy last year, Islamic fundamentalists, Socialist Democrats and independents are vying in local and provincial elections to unseat the National Liberation Front (FLN) after 27 years of one-party rule.

"The stone was thrown in the water in Algiers, and the ripples are reaching us," said Bachir Bekkara of the town council. "There's a big debate going on."

But in this provincial capital 400 km (250 miles) from the Mediterranean Sea, where Thursday's sheep market is still the economic heartbeat, tribe and family ties often run deeper than politics.

Reverses

The FLN exerts a strong pull on a highly conservative population that reveres its leading freedom fighters for independence from France in 1962.

"But tribal issues are very much alive and they are bound to erupt around election time," said a local FLN official.

Grassy plains, dotted with grazing herds, sheep and goats, surround El Bayadh at the edge of the Algerian steppe 1,000 metres (3,300 feet) above sea level.

On the horizon, the rugged Saharan Atlas Mountains mark the northern boundary of the Sahara Desert and even greater sandy emptiness beyond.

Herdsman suffer freezing cold in winter and simmering heat in summer.

Turbaned men walk the dusty streets wrapped in wool burnouses, or hooded cloaks. Women stare from behind white veils.

The French founded El Bayadh in 1852 as a fort to combat resistance to their advancing armies. It remains a garrison town, with municipal gardens, neo-classical squares and tree-lined boulevards recalling colonial days.

Economy

Drought — tragically relieved this month by torrential rains that killed 16 people — has decimated livestock and pushed the economy into a slump with high unemployment.

Men greet each other in traditional bedouin fashion by bending down to kiss each other's shoulder. In a city of 49,000, social ties bind even political adversaries.

Rival candidates for June 12 municipal and provincial elections, the first multi-party poll in 30 years, kiss warmly on the steps of the office of the Wali (provincial governor) — fundamentalists sporting beards, FLN activists moustaches.

"Some of my closest friends are in the FLN," said a town council candidate for the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the ruling party's biggest rival, in a candid conversation. "But officials say tribal tensions beneath the small town camaraderie could make the campaign, which began officially on Monday, a hot one."

FIS and FLN supporters have already clashed in the nearby village of El-Ghassoul, leaving a FIS supporter gravely wounded in hospital. The former FLN mayor and 19 others were sentenced to fines and jail terms for gathering without authorisation and inflicting wounds.

Row

The April 20 row broke out when FLN supporters — without authorisation — sought to organise an anti-fundamentalist rally at the same time that FIS activists from El-Bayadh had permission to conduct a public lecture.

A senior official said political rivalry was only the spark that ignored longstanding tension between the dominant Oulad Mou'min clan and tribal minorities in El-Ghassoul. "People here don't always understand the new climate. They don't always play by the rules," he said.

The local FLN, led by young men of the party's reformist wing, thinks it can capitalise on patriotic feeling and traditional loyalty.

There is optimism that the FLN or independents will be assured of victory, said an FLN official. He said 90 per cent of the independents were former FLN activists unable to get on with the lists.

A local FIS office headed by 37-year-old Abdel Qader Bouzad, preacher at El-Nur mosque, opened last month. It has made inroads among disaffected youth as elsewhere in Algeria and professes equal optimism. "We are the up and coming party. The FLN is the party on the decline," the FIS official said.

But the fundamentalists have a formidable handicap in opposing the widespread adoration of Marabouts, local holy men to whom residents sometimes attribute saintly powers. FIS positions have ruffled traditional religious sentiment, opponents say.

People don't like to be told not to pray," the FLN official said.

QUOTE ME

"The Spanish government voices dismay at the aggression which caused the death of eight Palestinian workers near Tel Aviv, and condemns repressive steps taken by the Israeli army against demonstrators. These events clearly expose the explosive situation created in the occupied Arab territories by the Israeli authorities' lack of will to dialogue and policy of fait accompli which contribute to increased tension. The Spanish government regards as particularly urgent the start of direct dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians as a first step towards a negotiated conclusion of the conflict." — A Spanish Foreign Ministry statement.

"I think the US government and American people understand that this was a tragedy. We had nothing to do with it and that we are doing everything we can to restore tranquility." — Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's deputy Foreign Minister saying that the US State Department's call for restraint in handling Palestinian riots that have followed the massacre was "understandable but unwarranted."

"I appeal to the government of Israel as well as to the Israeli and Palestinian peoples urging them to reject the spiral of violence in order to safeguard human life and give the voices of reason the chance they deserve to make themselves heard." — Spanish head-of-Unesco.

Kuwait businessmen attend CIBUS '90

Italy keen to step up trade link with Gulf

By M.C. Bose
Business Editor

A WEEK-LONG exhibition of food, CIBUS '90 held in Parma, Italy, on May 6, 1990, attracted nearly 1,450 exhibitors from 65 countries. CIBUS '90, the most important food exhibition was organised in co-operation with the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the International Fairs Grounds of Parma. The Minister of Agriculture Calogero Mannino, opened the fair.

Fair authorities also invited journalists from Kuwait (Arab Times), Finland, Sweden, France, Britain and West Germany.

Participants from the following countries visited the fair: Kuwait, Switzerland, Spain, Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong, Holland, Canada, Greece, USA, Luxembourg, Korea, Portugal, Great Britain, Turkey, Germany, Egypt, Denmark, Ireland, France, Israel, Japan, Tunisia, Austria, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Norway and Belgium.

Four top businessmen from Kuwait, Fawzi Nabboud, the commercial manager of Alcor; Hussain Hafeez Al Abdulla, general manager of Hamza A. Mukami Est.; Sunil Malhotra, marketing manager of Al Zahem; and Nizar Erseid, marketing and sales manager of Saud Aujan & Bros Co. were invited to attend the fair.

In order to meet the demand for an increasingly large number of Italian and foreign exhibitors, a new pavilion has been built. This covers an area of twenty thousand square metres and is equipped with the most modern technological structures, thus increasing the total area of the Exhibition Centre to eighty-four thousand square metres.

Most of the Italian businessmen at the fair told the Arab Times that they were trying to strengthen their trade links with the Gulf market particularly Kuwait where they are seeking contacts with wholesalers.

There are many connections between Italy and the Arab countries and one of these remarkable factors is the Italian cuisine. Italy is the fifth supplier of the Kuwait market with exports of \$358 million, but in the food industry its contribution is limited mainly to few items such as pasta, tomato paste, and frozen meat.



Minister of Agriculture Calogero Mannino addresses the opening ceremony.

The Italian Trade Commission in Kuwait took keen interest in promoting trade, particularly food industry between the two countries.

The changing image of today's Italy is a result of its rapid economic growth. During this decade, the economy has grown 20 per cent in real terms — one of the highest rates in Europe.

According to Roberto Luongo, Italian trade commissioner, Italy's share of Kuwaiti market in 1988 stood at 6.5 per cent. The value of its imports from Kuwait, mostly crude oil and gas reached more than \$468 million.

It is a well-known fact that the Italian market, because of its population and per capita income, is one of the largest in the world.

Mirella Piccioni, director, Economic Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said this year's show was the fourth in the series which attracted more participants compared to the previous ones. The role of CIBUS as promoter of the Italian food industry is also very important. CIBUS at the centre of the Italian food valley, in a city rich in art, history and gastronomic tradition plus entrepreneurial skills, is easily reached from any part of Europe and is the ideal meeting place for businessmen in the food industry at international level.

Pasta, which has always



Entrance of fair offices.

dominated the diet of families in Italy, has gained new status and recognition as a nutritious part of Italian diet. Proof of this can be seen in the success of the Mediterranean diet and on every occasion where a complete balanced diet is required.

Pasta is the product towards whose growth the Corticella group is directing its major organisation and financial capacities.

Besides it is pasta which has made the greatest contribution to the image of the company. The product is sold both under the Corticella and Co-op trademark. Corticella pasta, now well-known and appreciated throughout the whole of Italy, is produced in more than 100 shapes and sizes ranging from bran-flour pasta, to egg-based pasta, to pasta made with spinach, to unusually-shaped pasta and complementary products with the taste and tradition of areas from all over Italy.

The subsidiary products include rice, semolina and bread-crumbs which constitute a widening of the basic range in order to cater for consumer needs.

The products' quality and genuineness are the result of synergies deriving from the grinding division and therefore from the internally-produced flour as well as of automated production methods and the utilisation of constantly updated technology.

The factories at Bologna and Foligno have a daily production capacity of 3,000 quintals and kneading, pasta-cutting, drying and wrapping are all completely automated under strict, constant controls in hygiene and environment.

Dr Amedeo Carpani, the public relations manager with Corticella has been trying to expand its trade link with the Gulf especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The Corticella Group today consists of three synergic divisions engaged in milling, pasta and bread production.

Each division utilises modern production methods which are continually being technologically reinforced and updated.

The macro-structure required in order to sustain and administer this complex company is divisional in type, with central



Businessmen from Kuwait attended the fair.

organisational departments. This type of organisation is undoubtedly the most suitable for administering product marketing combinations as well as giving major attention to units

which take on a driving role as integrators within the company.

The companies' activities are concentrated on the production of common wheat flour and



Mirella Piccioni talks to Arab Times Business Editor, M.C. Bose, during an interview at the fair in Parma, Italy.



Dr. Giuseppe Dani (right), president of Corticella, and Dr. Amedeo Carpani, public relations manager, discuss business strategy during the fair.

The development of agriculture is presently the fruit of ongoing research and experimentation for the increase, qualitative selection and safety of the product.

The Central Statistical Office said non-oil exports continued to rise, but at a slower rate than in the second half of last year. At the same time, non-oil imports appeared to be showing an upward trend.

Economists said the latest figures showed that the government's attempts to squeeze consumer spending through relatively high interest rates had not yet worked.

"It was more a hug than a squeeze," said Peter Spencer of stock brokers Shearson Lehmann Hutton.

Michael Saunders of brokers Midland Montagu said the figures provided no evidence the government had succeeded in slowing down the economy.

"What is very worrying is the strength of the import figures," he said.

On the London stock market, shares fell back on the news after having made gains earlier in the morning. The pound was little changed.

Last month, the government said the high March deficit — 5.4 per cent of GDP — was put at £2.2 billion (\$3.7 billion) and the second worst on record — was caused by "erratic items" such as purchases of airlines and diamonds. But the latest figures did not contain these factors.

Tokyo shares

Share average: 3217.51

Volume: 650 million shares

Value: 151.23 billion yen

Name of stock

Advantest Corp. 5530

Ajinomoto 2080

Alps Elec. 2130

Amada 1700

Asahi Chem Ind. 912

Asahi Glass 1910

C. Itoh Co. 895

Canon Inc. 1780

Casio Comp. 1630

Dai Nippon Printing 1940

Dainippon Ph. 2770

Daisaku Corp. 2560

Enso 1790

Fagor Ltd. 7260

Fuji Photo. 4150

Fujitsu Ltd. 1460

Hitachi Credit 1680

Hitachi Koki 2230

Hitachi Ltd. 1790

Honda Motor 1590

Ito Yokado Co. 1820

Kajima Corp. 4170

Kanazaki H. 930

Kobe Cast Iron 1680

Kokusan Elec. 5130

Komatsu Ltd. 1100

Kyocera Corp. 7700

Mitsubishi 3000

Mitsubishi Ind. 3770

Mitsubishi 2220

Mitsubishi 925

Mitsubishi Corp. 1470

Mitsubishi Estate 1640

Mitsubishi H. 1000

Mitsui Bussan 1890

Mitsui R. E. 1800

Mizuno Corp. 3890

Mori Seiki Co. 3780

NEC Corp. 2100

Nippon Steel 1560

Nippon Soda Co. 1140

Nippon Steel Corp. 618

Nippon Yusen 2270

Nitako Corp. 1470

Nomura Sec. 1630

Okuma Mach. 2030

Orix Corp. 4300

Pioneer Elec. Co. 9980

Renovon Look Inc. 956

Sanyo Elec. Co. 956

Secom Co. Ltd. 5950

Shinetsu Chem. 1730

Shindengen Elec. 1380

Sony Corp. 8780

Sunrise Elec. Ind. 1380

S. Metal Ind. 1650

Takeda Chemical 6670

TDK Corp. 7560

Tokai Marine & Fire 4800

Tokyo Elec Power 4360

Toppan Printing 1830

Toshiba Corp. 840

Toshiba Motor 2450

Yokohama Elec. 3070

Yokohama Investment Banking (Midland) Bank Ltd.

Bhattarai for Delhi

Premier to discuss lingering trade row

KATHMANDU, May 23, (UPI): Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai will visit India next month to discuss a lingering trade dispute with its giant neighbour that has caused severe hardship in Nepal, he said today.

Bhattarai, leader of Nepal's new interim government, told United Press International that he would be in New Delhi for three days starting June 8 to meet senior Indian officials.

India imposed a virtual trade embargo against Nepal following the expiration of a bilateral trade and transit treaty last March. Both sides accused the other of failing to come to the table to negotiate a new pact.

Severe food and kerosene shortages were caused in Nepal, which depended heavily on concessional Indian rates for essential commodities. Rancor between Nepal's King Birendra, who then headed the government, and Indian officials further strained relations.

Bhattarai, head of Nepal's first multi-party government in 29 years, adopted a more conciliatory tone and offered to talk with the Indian government.

A senior leader of Bhattarai's Nepali Congress Party earlier had demanded that the trade embargo be lifted before Nepali prime minister's visit to New Delhi.

But Bhattarai said today, "India will not lift the trade embargo before my visit. What is the point of my going to Delhi if all the problems are settled before my going."

He met Birendra to discuss the trade dispute which strained relations between the neighbours in the past year.

The trade embargo was imposed partly due to India's anger over a Nepalese decision to buy arms from China and allow Chinese nationals to work close to the India-Nepal border. Indian officials said the move went against the spirit of a bilateral treaty between India and Nepal that gives special status to the landlocked nation.

Japan's panel adopts

New economic policy guideline

TOKYO, May 23, (AP): The government and the ruling party today adopted a new policy guideline calling for steps to make Japan's economy better serve the interests of its consumers and the world economy.

It calls for opening Japan's markets wider to foreign goods, making its fiscal and budgetary policies conform with those of the rest of the world, and increasing foreign aid.

"We must push forward the adjustment of Japan's economic structure in order to improve the nation's standard of living and promote consumer benefits in

accordance with world economic growth," said a government statement.

The guideline was adopted by the government-LDP economic structural adjustment board, which consists of bureaucrats and lawmakers from the governing Liberal Democratic Party.

It marks a major revision in the direction suggested for Japan's economy.

The 1986 guideline, known as the Maekawa report, urged a drastic shift from heavy reliance on exports to increased domestic demand so as to fuel economic growth and meet demands from

Japan's trade partners that it reduce its giant trade surpluses.

In recent months, however, government and LDP panels have called for less emphasis on expanding domestic demand and more on international co-operation and benefits for Japanese consumers, who now pay some of the world's highest prices.

The new guideline suggests that Japan's economy already has been transformed to a domestic orientation and notes that its trade surplus has been decreasing.

"For us to assume a role and responsibilities compatible with

our position in the international community... it is an extremely important theme for Japan to promote the adjustment of our economy to a more internationally co-operative style," it said.

In addition to improved living standards, the guideline also calls for shorter working hours and longer vacations.

The new guideline is seen as reflecting Japan's eagerness to resolve longstanding trade disputes with the United States by including major points raised in recent US-Japan talks aimed at removing barriers in Japan to trade and investment.

New step toward unifying exchange rates

CAIRO, May 23, (Reuters): Egypt proposed today a major step toward unifying its multi-tiered currency exchange rate, a key IMF demand that could make it easier to detect the cost of its massive hidden subsidies to the poor.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) wants exchange rate reform as part of negotiations to provide stand-by credits to Egypt, burdened with a total foreign debt of

around \$50 billion. Finance Minister Mohammed Al Razaz told the People's Assembly (parliament) the government planned a sharp decrease in the "Central Bank" exchange rate used to value key commodity imports sold to the public.

The move, which the assembly must approve, would push down the pound as of July 1 to 2.00 to the dollar from the present 1.10, but leave it substantially below the black market rate of around 2.72.

Another rate, the fluctuating commercial bank rate now around £2.69, is used by tourists and for most private sector transactions.

The exchange rate proposal was submitted to the assembly as part of the budget for new financial year that begins on July 1. Western diplomats said it was unlikely to be changed. Razaz said the proposal was a step toward unifying Egypt's exchange rates in the course of economic reform.

Boeing, McDonnell Douglas join West European study

PARIS, May 23, (Reuters): US aircraft makers Boeing and McDonnell Douglas have joined a Western European study to develop a 21st century version of the Anglo-French supersonic concorde airliner, Aerospatiale de France said today.

The two US giants and Deutsche Airbus of West Germany had agreed to join Aerospatiale and British Aerospace Plc (BAE) to evaluate the new airliner, the French firm said.

Aerospatiale and BAE said on May 9 they planned to replace Concorde, the only supersonic airliner in commercial service, but said it needed input from others in the industry.

The new aircraft would fly farther and slightly faster and more quietly and cheaply than the more than 20 year old original,

which can fly at 2.3 times the speed of sound.

Super-Concorde would streak from Paris to Tokyo in five hours, less than half the flight time of conventional aircraft, and carry at least 200 passengers — double Concorde's capacity.

Announcing the deal with British Aerospace, Aerospatiale chairman Henri Matre, said on May 9 international co-operation was essential to the success of the \$11 billion project.

"There is very strong demand for a successor to Concorde," Matre said, though he warned that the market could not sustain two or more rival versions of a supersonic passenger jet.

Aerospatiale said in today's statement the viability of the project depended on

overcoming environmental questions, and the huge investment needed.

The five companies, which together account for virtually all significant Western airliner production, had agreed to conduct general studies over the next year, Aerospatiale said.

Studies would cover prospects for international co-operation in developing the aircraft and the market for supersonic flights as well as regulatory approval for the proposed aircraft.

The market for supersonic flights would also be studied, as well as certification standards for the proposed aircraft.

Matre has said British and French designers with Concorde experience lead the way, but "the club is open" if Americans, Japanese, Germans or the Soviet Union

want to join in.

The Anglo-French project, with a research budget of \$36 million over the next five years, is aimed at producing a plane with double the 6,500 km (4,000 mile) range of Concorde.

Matre said studies in Europe and the United States showed there was a potential market for 300 to 500 planes, with a possible launch date in 2010 or 2015.

Design concepts indicate super-Concorde would retain the characteristic needle nose and swept-back delta wings of the original, 12 of which are flying scheduled long-range routes from Air France and British Airways.

Soviet and US efforts to build rival supersonic planes in the 1970s were dropped either because of design or cost problems and on environmental grounds.

Banks urged to hire more nationals

ABU DHABI, May 23, (Reuters): Senior United Arab Emirates (UAE) bank officials today urged the government to compel local and foreign banks to hire more nationals.

"Nationalisation of jobs is a fundamental issue not only in the UAE but the whole Gulf," Central Bank Governor Abdul Malik Al Hamar told a local employment seminar.

The Central Bank asked banks to employ up to 20 per cent UAE nationals but most have not, complaining that they need a lot of training and are paid twice the wage of expatriates.

"There should be legislation forcing these banks to nationalise jobs. Even national banks have failed to meet our instructions," Hamar said.

Foreigners in the banking sector account for around 92 per cent of bank workers, most being Indians and Pakistanis. Mudhafar Mudhafar, deputy director of the government-owned Emirates Industrial Bank, said 14 foreign banks had no nationals at all while the rest had hardly any.

He said the number of nationals working in the banking sector had actually fallen in 1987, and senior banking posts were almost all held by foreigners.

A paper presented at the meeting said nationals held 183 of the senior posts in the banking sector while Arab expatriates held 400 and other nationals held around 1,700.

Indian Cinema

Teen-age idol Aamir at crossroads

Firoze Rangoonwalla
Arab Times correspondent

IT happened to Kumar Gaurav. It happened to Rajeev Kapoor. It's now happening to Aamir Khan. After a couple of big hits, the fan following crumbles, films flop in a row, he's no more bankable and a young star is left in the lurch.

Such a stage would normally come in actor's life after a minimum of eight years. But now the saturation point is reached within just two years. Have the fans become fickle? Have the films gone so bad? Nobody knows. The lame excuse is that the public wants a fresh pair in every film. What happened to traditional romantic star pairs who lasted years?

Aamir Khan, luckily, is an heir of the famous film family of Hussains... Nasir and Tahir. So he can hope to survive for some time. But only if films run. Even Raj Kapoor's youngest son can't be propped up as a star, despite the backing of a big studio and family. He will have to create a new image which the audience accepts. Aamir unfortunately, like Gaurav, started on the wrong foot as a romantic teenager. And such an image wears off quickly.

Aamir created a stir with the super-duper hit *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak* in which his heroine was young Juhi Chawla. The film clicked for some inexplicable reason, surprising even its veteran maker Nasir. The hero became a rage and matinee idol in his first film. Then came *Raakh*. Aamir was rejected as an action-revenge hero. It was followed by the badly made *Love Love Love*, once again he was not accepted as a romancer-cum-dancer action hero of Juhi. The pair almost crashed. Juhi paired with others and carved a niche for herself.

The Hussain brothers jumped to Aamir's rescue. Papa Tahir announced *Tum Mere Ho* with Juhi. The Hussains believe more formulas than stars. Hussain is confident that the film has the right ingredients, youthful love faced by class barriers and family feud as in the backdrop of gypsy life linked with witchcraft and snake-charmers. This was the trick of the great old hit *Nagin*, with Vijayantimala and Pradeep Kumar, made by Filmistan where Nasir and Tahir learnt their ropes.

It surely helps to give Aamir Khan a new look of a gypsy snake-man, who plays various tricks to get his

lady love. Aamir is the heir of a high class family. Who was bitten by a snake in childhood and given up as dead. The story goes that the snakes had taken revenge for injustice done to the charmers. Aamir grows up, falls in love and the cycle of opposition is repeated with a twist. *Tum Mere Ho* unlike *Qayamat*, ends on a happy note. In a way, it seems to like a sequel with the rebirth of the lovers.

The supporting cast includes Sudhir Panday, Kalpana Iyer, Renu Arya, Ajit Vachani, Ishrat Ali and Zutshi. The Anand-Milind pair of *Qayamat* have prepared some off-beat songs — keeping the snakes in mind. Tahir has also planned *Do Suraj* with Aamir and a new heroine. And uncle Nasir is mid-stream with *Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikander* pairing Aamir with a new, charming talent, Girija, from the south. He will introduce a new music duo: Jatin-Lalit. Nasir's son Mansoor, who directed *Qayamat* will handle the film.

Aamir Khan himself did not have faith in his pairing with Juhi, except in films by his own family wizards. So he signed outside productions with other heroines. *Arwal Number*, just released, is not in reckoning because Dev Anand dominates his own films and Aamir's future can't be clearly predicted from that. Heroine Ektaa too is no earth-shatterer. Films eagerly awaited by the Hussain clan are those with the latest hot property Madhuri Dixit. One is *Dil* in which Aamir plays an intense lover; another is *Deewana Mujhsa Nahin* with the star playing a crazy photographer, deeply in love with his model. They hope that Anil Kapoor's top heroine will soon become a hit with Aamir.

Afsana Pyar Ka with Neelam, also raises hopes about a fresh pairing in a story of teen-age lovers at college. Lower down the line are films with Farha, *Jawani Zindabad* with Aamir as a down-beat guy taking on life in a happy-go-lucky way and *Isi Ka Nam Zindagi* where he faces a generation-gap conflict. And Dilip Shankar's *Aatank Hi Aatank* with a big cast will test Aamir's image he plays a young Mafia Don. It has Juhi, Sonam and Archana Joglekar.

Aamir himself takes it all in his stride. "What is to happen will happen. If my fans come back for my new films it would be great. Otherwise I can always do some other work," he says.



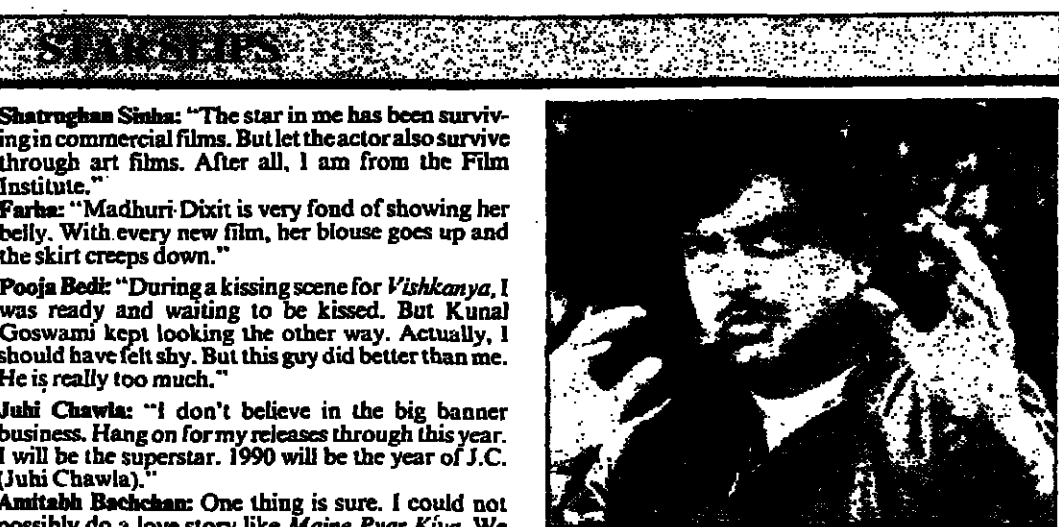
Aamir's bespectacled, seeks respectable image in *Diwana Mujhsa Nahin*. Above: with Madhuri in a still from the film.



Hit pair Juhi and Aamir are cast in *Tum Mere Ho*.



Farha and Aamir shooting *Isi Ka Nam Zindagi*.



Shatrughan Sinha

Shatrughan Sinha: "The star in me has been surviving in commercial films. But let the actor also survive through art films. After all, I am from the Film Institute."

Farha: "Madhuri Dixit is very fond of showing her belly. With every new film, her blouse goes up and the skirt creeps down."

Pooja Bedi: "During a kissing scene for *Vishkanya*, I was ready and waiting to be kissed. But Kunal Goswami kept looking the other way. Actually, I should have felt shy. But this guy did better than me. He is really too much."

Juhi Chawla: "I don't believe in the big banner business. Hang on for my releases through this year. I will be the superstar. 1990 will be the year of J.C. (Juhi Chawla)."

Amitabh Bachchan: One thing is sure. I could not possibly do a love story like *Maine Pyar Kiya*. We can't be doing what Salman Khan is doing."



Anil Kapoor celebrating success

Mini Meet: Anil Kapoor

'I love doing comedy'

ANIL KAPOOR. The name is now synonymous with success. His films like *Kishen Kanhaiya* have become hits and he is reeling under the after effects of success. Recently, during a hectic shooting schedule, Anil hurt his foot and has been asked to rest. As he was relatively free, he granted us an interview.

Q. Are you turning from hero to comedian?

A. "What makes you think that?"

Q. One side of your double-role in *Kishen Kanhaiya* and the kind of scenes, dances and dresses in *Ghar Ho Tu Aisa*.

A. A comic hero is a winsome hero. People easily identify with him. You remember how Raj Kapoor was loved. And then it is there, either in one character of a double-role or some scenes in the first half. Ultimately, we have to turn serious and do the "dhisum dhisum" for the climax. Moreover, I love doing comedy.

Q. Going to ridiculous lengths as in *Ghar Ho Tu Aisa*?

A. Sometimes, while shooting, one does not realise the exact degree of loudness... of gesture, tone, dress etc. One goes by the role, the scene and what the director says. One also cannot keep count of the number of scenes done for a film and what will be edited. So the end result may become excessive for some cinegoers or critics.

Q. You mean you are out to win the masses?

A. That is necessary. They come in big numbers to theatres, while you people watch on video. Success counts. My serious roles in *Thikana*, *Ram Avtar*, and especially *Awaraz* except *Eshwar*, did not bring any rewards, on the contrary, *Mr India* and *Ram Lakhan* did big business.

Q. Amitabh also tried to do comedy but he was not liked. Since you are aiming at the No. 1 position.

A. Please don't bring in numbers or compare me with Amitabh. I can't reach his level in range. I think he has done very good work in *Agneypath*. But somehow it was not accepted. Tomorrow people may do the same to my films.

Q. Even Prakash Mehra has shifted loyalties and taken you for *Jawaan* instead of Amitabh?

A. It's not that. Everyone likes and wants a change. Even Amitabh may not like to work repeatedly with the same film maker.

Q. And why do you avoid multi-starrers?

A. I have such films too. But there comes a stage when you can carry a film on your own. Producers too want to concentrate on one star or one pair, and select scripts of that nature. It is a real test for the actor and it is also a big risk for him. It's not just an ego trip.

Q. How do you see yourself in the future?

A. Doing various types of roles and changing as the times change. That's what survival is all about. Am I right?

Behind the screen



Mandakini and Chunky Panday in a forthcoming film. The Raj Kapoor girl seems to be on her way out.

● Mandakini's career has gone kaput. Despite all her posing and willingness, she has been reduced to winning heroes and influencing producers. What a way to go for a Raj Kapoor discovery. It proves one more thing... like crime, sex also does not pay.

● Suresh Oberoi, the egotist, puts off everybody with his bluffs and boasts. His fondest talk is about himself and he yak-

yaks about "how I did this" and "how I did that." This includes not only his acting feats but also his (so-called) female conquests. One producer was so fed up of his behaviour that he dropped him immediately after the "muhurat."

● Pigeons are in great demand after the success of "Handsome" in *Maine Pyar Kiya*. Trainers are turning away from dogs and horses to birds. "Handsomes" may even bag an award for facing the lights bravely and doing his stuff cutely. The major stars are already grumbling and complaining. When directors come to sign them, they throw hints that any bird's role should not be too prominent. At this rate, don't be surprised if Anil Kapoor or Sri Dev have a "no pigeons" clause in their contract.

● Shabana Azmi got a shock over tea in her sea-front apartment one morning when a big crowd of slum-dwellers gathered outside her home and demanded her attention. When the champion of the downtrodden went down, she was told they wanted her to intervene and stop the construction of linking one slum to another.

● Deepthi Naval is using her divorce as a publicity gimmick in a last-ditch attempt to make a career in commercial films. She spreads the word above Prakash Jha and Nana Patekar. She invited press friends to meet her. And gave them the 'story' along with a new set of her own photos from different angles.

VIDEO CORNER

Outrageous adventures of Baron Munchausen

By Shaun Seekins

JAMES WOODS has a good role to play in *True Believer*, that of a brilliant, radical Greenwich Village based attorney named Eddie Dodd. Years of cynicism have transformed him into New York's leading defender of dope-dealers. He's still defending civil rights, only now they're the rights of big time criminals who can compensate him on the scale he needs. Robert Downey plays Roger Baron, the clear-eyed young idealist straight from law school who has idealised Dadds' but quickly becomes demoralised when he realises his role model is working on the side of darkness. It is Roger who has to convince Eddie to stop arranging bail for the crack merchants long enough to take the case of a young Asian who has been falsely convicted of a gang slaying.

The adventures of Baron Munchausen is based upon the fanciful stories told by the Baron in 18th century Europe. As the story opens, a travelling theatre troupe is performing a mangled interpretation of one of Baron's fantastic adventures, when the real Baron (John Neville) interrupts. The theatre is in the process of being bombed by the Turks because of a bet that the Baron had won with the Sultan, and he



James Woods plays a burned-out lawyer in *True Believer*.

claims to have a plan to beat back the invaders. But to do so, he must travel

throughout the universe to reassemble his gang of magical cohorts. For the remainder of the movie we follow the Baron and a young stowaway (Sarah Polley) from one outrageous adventure to the next.

Gross Anatomy is a medical version of the *Paper Chase* in which five aspiring doctors try to get through their first year of medical school. Using their anatomy lab as a focal point, the students, led by class clown Mathew Mondine roll out all the classic dead body jokes, not scheduled for a long run in the theatres before finding its way to video.

Peter O'Toole stars in *Crossing to Freedom*, set in Eastern France during 1940, he reluctantly agrees to accompany a pair of English youngsters to enable them to get back home before the war gets serious. As they progress they collect other refugees, have to avoid increasing harassment by the Germans and generally run into all the problems that one can imagine.

Capitol News takes a look at a fictional Washington newspaper, a two-hour pilot for a series to come, the main characters are introduced by having newcomer Anne McKenna (Helen Slater) in from San Diego meeting her fellow workers. Lloyd Bridges also stars and the series gets off to a good start with some exciting behind the

scenes reporting.

Forbidden Nights is based on a true account of an American woman graduate student, Judith Shapiro, invited by the Chinese government to teach literature and Western journalism at Hunan College in Changsha in 1979.

The film focuses on Shapiro and her involvement with Liang Heng, a serious Chinese student. Melissa Gilbert plays Shapiro as a spoiled selfish Westerner and one can't help but wonder what she's doing there. The idea of East meeting West is hardly new, but she observers very few of China's customs, complains continually about conditions and seems to be cool even in her relations with her lover. Christopher Reeve stars in *The Rose and The Jackal*. He plays detective Allan Pinkerton, who after saving Lincoln from a would be assassin outside Baltimore in 1861 is assigned to investigate suspected Southern spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow. The Richmond-born Rose is busy pumping Northerners for military secrets. But when she learns of the impending Battle of Little Big Horn, Pinkerton determines to close in and capture her despite romantically attracted.

The above films courtesy the Video Club, Salmiya; Salmiya; Fintas Towers and Safeway Complex, Farwaniya.

Entertainment Shorts

Marisa Berenson comeback

Marisa Berenson makes her American movie comeback in the role of strong-willed actress Kay Gibson in the Clint Eastwood film adaptation of the novel *White Hunter, Black Heart*.

The picture will open late this summer in the United States, coinciding with Berenson's return to American residence after years of living and filming in Europe.

Since completing *White Hunter, Black Heart*, Berenson has co-starred opposite Kris Kristofferson in *Perfume of the Ceylon*, scheduled to be released next year.

Blair moves over

Blair Underwood, for three years one of the stars of television's *L.A. Law* series, is moving over to cable movies to co-star on TNT in *Heat Wave*.

Underwood, who received good reviews for his recent portrayal of civil rights worker James Chaney in the NBC television network movie *Murder in Mississippi*, will join James Earl Jones and Cicely Tyson in the cast of *Heat Wave*.

In the cable drama Underwood will play Bob Richardson, the first black reporter at the Los Angeles Times, who began his career covering the Watts riot in 1965.

Disney release

Walt Disney Studios will dip into its vaults this year to re-release another of the company's golden oldie animated cartoons, *Peter Pan*.

The classic cartoon was produced in 1953 and has been released in theatres six times in the past 37 years, accumulating \$145 million in the process,

according to the studio.

Peter Pan will go on sale in cassettes Sept 21 with a price of \$24.99, with a \$5 rebate from Nabisco. It is estimated that for Disney's most recent cassette release, *The Little Mermaid*, the company shipped 6.3 million units.

Dafoe role

Willem Dafoe has been signed to portray painter Jackson Pollack in *Love Affair*, a biographical film based on the artist's life, which is scheduled to film next year.

The picture will follow the book, *Love Affair*, written by Ruth Klugman 15 years ago dealing with her personal relationship with Pollack, who died in a car crash in the late 1950s.

Elizabeth Le Compte will direct the movie from a script written by herself and Marry Harron.

Cartoons return

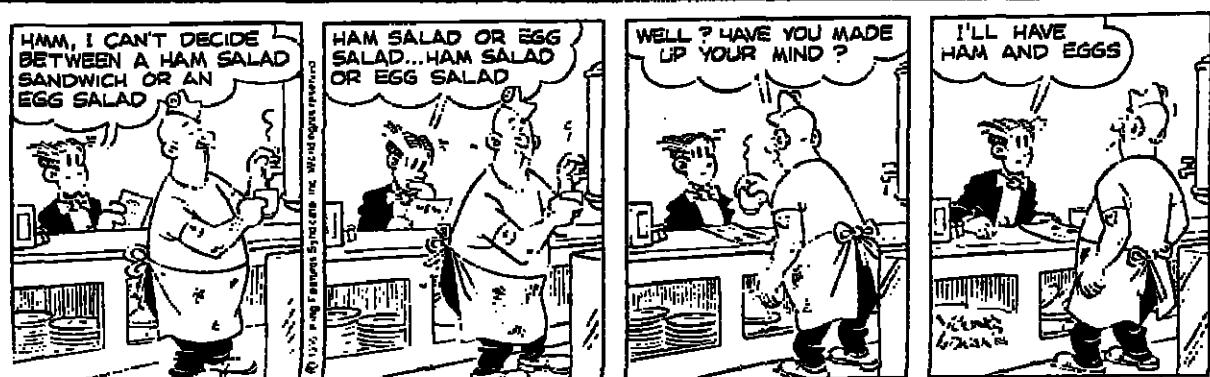
Moviegators who enjoy seeing animated cartoons on the big screen will be happy to learn that AMC Theatres Nationwide will show Looney Tunes shorts prior to select feature pictures in American theatres.

That means such favourites as Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Elmer Fudd, Sylvester, Tweety Bird, Road Runner, Willie E. Coyote and Bugs Bunny will be romping on the America's screens in the near future.

AMC, the second-largest theatre chain in US which operates some 1,700 screens in 27 states, surveyed more than 60,000 filmgoers and discovered an overwhelming majority wanted to see Looney Tunes as part of the theatre-going experience.

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUICK — By Bill Hoest



BEETLEBAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Grant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



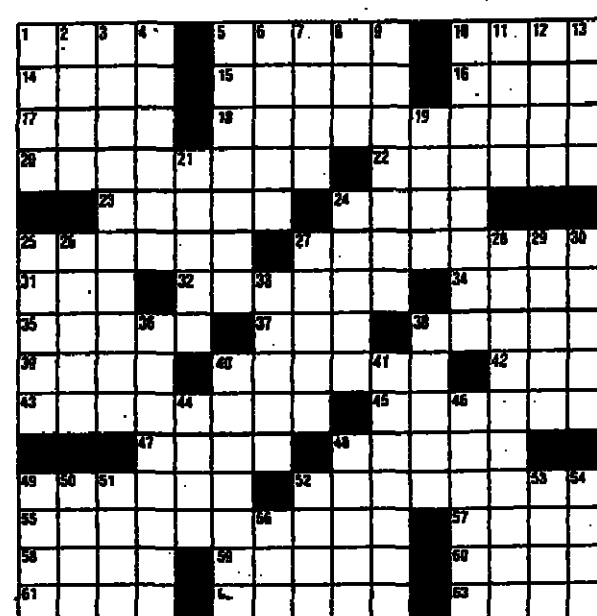
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Village
 - 2 Woeing
 - 3 playwright
 - 4 Mountain ash
 - 5 Mother of
 - 6 Horus
 - 14 Roll call reply
 - 15 Roman magistrate
 - 16 Landlord's income
 - 17 La Douce
 - 18 Ponder a
 - 20 See 32 Across
 - 22 Perfect accord
 - 23 Derby winner's reward
 - 24 Skirt feature
 - 25 Representatives
 - 27 Pain in the neck?
 - 31 Trendy
 - 32 Land holding
 - 34 River duck
 - 35 Indians of the Andes
 - 37 Inlet
 - 38 Five: Comb. form
 - 39 Equipment
 - 40 Peter Pan, for example
 - 42 Asian holiday
 - 43 Incoming passengers
 - 45 Apportion
 - 47 Word with hard or soft
 - 48 Type of train
 - 49 Added seasoning
 - 52 Roman emperor: 270-75
 - 55 Set up in advance
 - 57 Volcanic mountain
 - 58 Med. school course
- DOWN**
- 1 Sailing vessel
 - 2 German title
 - 3 Bank robber's moving target
 - 4 Lance or spear
 - 5 Relief from wrong
 - 6 "The Country, Girl" dramatist
 - 7 Sly
 - 8 Former boxing champ
 - 9 Galaxies
 - 10 Vex
 - 11 Oceans
 - 12 "— each life..."
 - 13 British gun
 - 19 Author Bagnold
 - 21 Senator Kefauver
 - 24 Bristly
 - 25 Juan's girlfriend
 - 26 Hopeless case
 - 27 Greets
 - 28 Small metric measure
 - 29 Despised
 - 30 Raise one's spirits
 - 33 Scandinavian sprite
 - 36 Bearded, like grain
 - 38 Cost
 - 40 Large kettle
 - 41 Worshipers
 - 44 Turn suddenly
 - 46 Eamon De
 - 48 German gun
 - 49 Bicker
 - 50 Florence's river
 - 51 Slender
 - 52 Plaster
 - 53 Britain's Princess Royal
 - 54 Star in Argo
 - 56 Dined

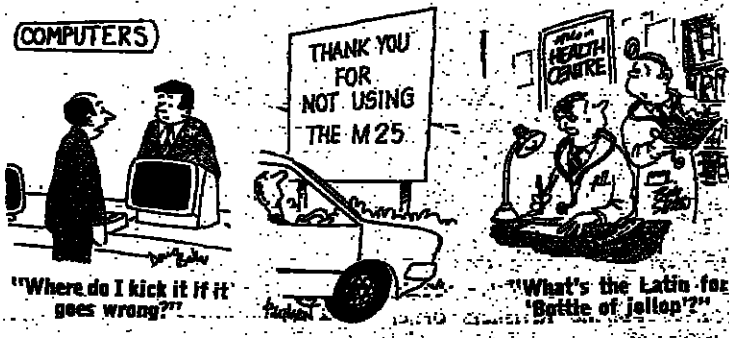
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BAKES ROC MOLL
ADELE ARDO ALI
DOGFANCERS NEB
BEEN TOMBOY
TAG ELEC ELOUISA
ADORES ASSENT
MITE OTTO REIO
POOL NASAL OSSA
ASTI CAPE EDEN
HEBRON ASSORT
STEVIE DIRE GEE
MODERN DANE
APO DOGONTHEJOB
REG SING OPERA
TOS RUS WITTY

GOREN BRIDGE

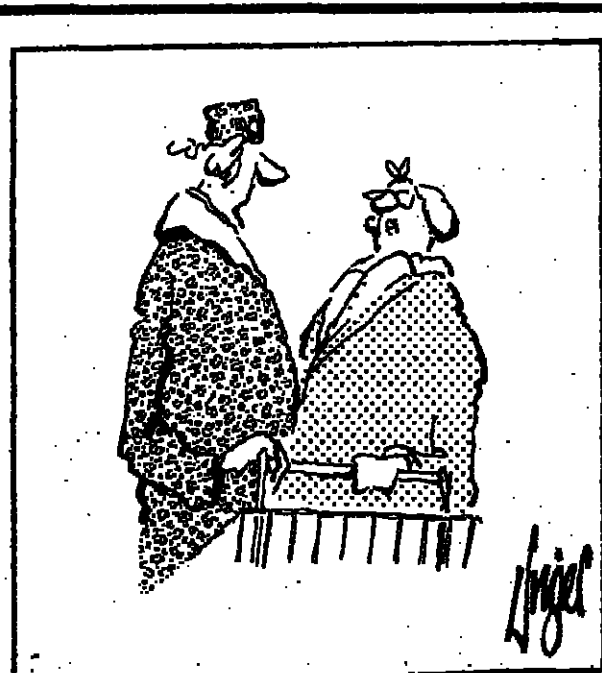
BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠ J762 ♠ AKQ63 ♠ 95 ♠ 65
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ 83 ♠ Q65 ♠ KQ63 ♠ 9872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ AJ103 ♠ AK762 ♠ AQ95 ♠ Void
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ AQJ104 ♠ 83 ♠ KQ10963 ♠ Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠ KJ643 ♠ A8 ♠ AJ9872 ♠ Void
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠ A8 ♠ KJ1098632 ♠ A8 ♠ 7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?



YOUR STARS

- Aries** March 21 - April 20
You are likely to have a bit of bad luck but you will be able to overcome it. You should not do anything that would put a distance between you and your partner. Instead of postponing things do them as soon as possible. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 27. Be cordial.
- Cancer** June 21 - July 20
You will be able to remedy something you have been doing wrong. You should have a good laugh at yourself and the situation you are in. Do not try to do too many things all at once. Be frugal.
- Libra** Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
You will be able to put a good idea to good use. However, it will need a little modification and improvement. Make sure you do not do anything that would expose you to a definite health risk. Be reasonable.
- Capricorn** Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
Show a little more goodwill towards others. If you do they will retaliate. You should not drop your standards nor abandon your principles. Take even more care than usual when on the road. Be less obstinate.
- Taurus** April 21 - May 20
You should avoid being long-winded. There is no time for idle chatter nor should you listen to gossip. Make sure you do not eat too many sweet or fatty things. Be tactful.
- Leo** July 21 - Aug. 21
You should make sure you do not break a promise and you should also ensure you can meet your commitments. Do not try to use bluff where you are not sure of your facts. Work hard but do relax, too. Be to the point.
- Scorpio** Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
Avoid making a nuisance of yourself and do not allow others to do anything of the kind to you. You will have to deal with an awkward customer and should keep calm whilst doing so. Make up your mind and leave yourself with sufficient room for manoeuvre.
- Aquarius** Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
If you do something yourself you will know it is well done. Do not hope that everything will be all right in the end, without your intervention it won't be. Take a little better care of your appearance and personal hygiene. Be attentive.
- Gemini** May 21 - June 20
Now is not the time to do anything too much out of the ordinary. Stick by your friends and do not pay attention to those trying to set you up against them. Make sure you do not allow your emotions to get out of hand. Be pertinent.
- Virgo** Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Make sure you get all the rest you need as well as moderate but regular exercise. Mistakes should be checked and corrected without delay. Do not spend too much time on a hobby if you have a lot of work to do. Be malleable.
- Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 22
You will be able to make good progress but only if you work hard and steadily. You are rather given to sickness and should try rouse a little more willpower and determination. Do not forget an appointment you have made. Be firm.
- Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20
Something that you do not want to do will have to be done or else you will get in the way of what you like. Take other people's opinions into your calculations but do not be influenced for the worse by them.



Communication

Spain introduces high speed train network

By Clare Pedrick

MADRID, Spain, (NWL) Legend has it that when the Spanish built their first stretch of railroad track in 1848, near the northern town of Barcelona, they deliberately chose a gauge that was larger than everyone else's to stave off threats of invasion from the French.

The legend continues that years later General Francisco Franco, Spain's leader, refused to switch to the international gauge for precisely the same reason. True or false, the fact remains that to this day Spanish trains run on tracks that are slightly wider than the 1,435 standard gauge used by every other country in the world. As any traveller who has ever crossed the border knows, the result is a wait of up to 45 minutes while a new locomotive is shunted into position.

Now Spain has decided to end its long period of isolation by linking up with the rest of Europe. The country that was one of the last to join the European Economic Community, and went on to prove itself the EEC's most dynamic performer, has chosen 1992 as the year to launch a new, high-speed train service on standard-gauge track.

With a top speed of 300 kilometres (186 miles) per hour, the Tren de Alta Velocidad (TAV) from Madrid to Seville will be one of the fastest trains in the world, knocking a clear 60 kph (37 mph) off the Japanese Bullet train and rivalled only by the latest French Atlantic TGV, from Paris to Bordeaux, on which it is modelled.

The train's debut, planned to coincide with the opening of the Seville Universal Expo in early 1992, will be followed three years later by another rapid-transit service, this time between Madrid and Barcelona.

The decision to run the TAV on standard-gauge track was a last-minute call. The intention had been to continue to use the old system. Persuaded by officials at the state-owned rail company, RENFE, Transport Minister Jose Barrionuevo agreed to build standard-gauge track for the two high-speed lines and to consider a plan to replace all the country's old tracks with international-gauge lines.

Now is the time to do it. Otherwise, we'll be left with two different networks and we'll be back to the same old problem of having to change from a high-speed train," said Inaki Barrion, one of the top RENFE engineers involved in the high-speed train project.

Certainly the timing seems providential. A railroad plan, due for completion by the end of the century, has set aside 2.1 billion pesetas (\$17.5 million) for building and upgrading 2,750 kilometres (1,715 miles) of track in Spain. Those in favour of adopting the international system argue that it makes economic sense to incorporate the changeover into the plan rather than wait until later.

Many see the launching of the two TAV services as the final proof that Spain has come of age as an economic power. The old trains, which used to take nearly six hours to rumble the 550 kilometres (340 miles) to Seville from Madrid, will suit a country that now has the fastest-growing economy in the European Economic Community.

Travel on the new system will be 2 hours and 40 minutes. The seven-hour trip from Madrid to Barcelona will be cut to 3 hours. "More or less the same time it would take to go by plane, if you take into account the time getting to and from the airport at

either end," said Barrion.

If France's experience is anything to go by, the Iberia-run airline shuttle service between Madrid and Barcelona will be hit hard. When the French SNCF railways introduced the TGV on the Paris-Lyon route the airline's share of passenger travel fell from 50 to 10 per cent.

Spain's TAVs, which in terms of investment are second only to the Channel Tunnel Project, will also bring the country into line for the massive European High Speed Rail Network, due for completion in the early part of the next century. If the schedule is met, by 2005 all the 12 nations of the European Economic Community, together with Austria and Switzerland, will be linked by high-speed trains, making it possible to travel from Madrid to London in just under 10 hours and from Paris to Vienna in just over 8 hours.

Interior

Spain has chosen the French company Alstom, designers of the TGV, to build the RENFE high-speed train. The West German firm Siemens will supply the locomotives. Working with designers from British-based Addison, which built the prototypes of the Channel Tunnel train, Spanish engineers are reshaping the nose to give the TAV a futuristic look.

The interior has also been redesigned to make it look as much as possible like an aircraft interior. Each car will have several video monitors for showing movies, plus a set of headphones for each passenger. Travellers will be offered newspapers and magazines, and passengers in business class will have the use of fax machines, copy machines and telephones. Unlike most other countries that have introduced high-speed service, Spain has guaranteed that second-class passengers will pay no

more than the price of a seat on an ordinary train.

"The idea is to offer a service which can be used by all sorts of people, not just the elite," said Barrion. "At the moment, the area around Seville is very badly connected in terms of rail and road links. This new train will have a tremendous social impact, and because it will also carry freight it should have an impact on business. At present, most goods are transported by truck, which is more expensive and much slower."

"Once the new line to Barcelona opens the whole of Spain will be united with Europe," he added. "This will be extremely important for tourism and other forms of commerce."

One of the main problems encountered in the building of the new Madrid-Seville line has been Spain's mountainous landscape. In the 113-kilometre (70-mile) stretch between Cordoba and Brazortas, where the route crosses the rugged Sierra Morena range, engineers have had to build 15 tunnels and 16 bridges.

But the greatest difficulty yet to arise has been in thinking of a name for the new train. RENFE officials came up with two ideas and two different paint colours to match the themes.

The first proposal was to call the train "Fireball" and paint it in flaming red and yellow. The second proposal suggested spelling out the letters TREN in black and white calling the train "Poema Visual" — a visual poem.

Unfortunately, when the two ideas were revealed to the Spanish public, and we asked for their opinions, people made it quite clear they didn't like either," said Barrion. "We'll just have to go back to the drawing board and come up with something else."



Spain's reputation for old-fashioned transportation systems will be blown away by the high-speed train network to be launched in 1992.



FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Tests important to identify best treatment

QUESTION: Could you please explain a bit about tests that I may be facing with a diagnosis of coronary heart disease? Do any of them cause pain, or are they dangerous? I'm more than a little anxious.

ANSWER: Coronary heart disease is the number one cause of death in the United States. It is the most common form of heart disease, and since treatment is based on knowing the extent of your problem, testing is very important.

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is a condition in which the muscle tissue of the heart is not receiving enough oxygen. The heart can't take any oxygen from the blood that it pumps. It gets its own supply through the coronary arteries, a set of arteries that encircle the heart and resemble a crown (coronary means crown-like). When these become clogged, blocked or narrowed, heart tissue dies from lack of oxygen, and a myocardial infarction (or heart attack) occurs. A gradual narrowing (or spasm) of these arteries causes the chest pain known as angina.

Your doctor will decide which tests to use to diagnose coronary heart disease based on several factors, the most important of which is your symptoms. If you feel chest pain on exertion or if you have suffered a heart attack, your doctor will probably have you undergo several tests.

Tests for CAD fall into two general categories, non-invasive and invasive. Non-invasive testing means that, except for some injections, nothing enters your body. Invasive testing means that a catheter (a very small tube) is placed into a vein or artery and used to inject a contrast medium (which shows up on X-ray), or to measure pressures in the vessel. Invasive tests are more reliable than

non-invasive tests, but they are more expensive and carry some risk.

Non-invasive tests include stress or exercise testing, where you walk or run a treadmill while an electrocardiogram (ECG) is taken. Your doctor will evaluate how your ECG changes as exercise stress your heart. This is an easy, relatively inexpensive test and will probably be the first you undergo.

You may need additional tests that can give more information about the condition of your heart. Some of these tests require an injection with small amount of radioactive materials. The amount of radioactivity is very low and passes out of your body quickly.

In exercise echocardiography, your doctor will look at an ultrasound picture of your heart as you exercise. Ultrasound works on the same principle that sonar does and it's quite safe.

Based on results from non-invasive tests, your physician may ask you to undergo an invasive test for CAD. The most common one is cardiac catheterisation. A catheter is placed in a small blood vessel and, under local anaesthesia, is snaked along into your heart, where a great deal of information about the way your heart pumps blood can be gathered. This procedure is considered a minor operation and has some risks, but gives your doctor the best information about your coronary arteries.

It may seem like a long and complicated process, and it is. Expensive too. But it provides all the necessary information that helps the physician help you choose the right therapy to fight your heart disease.

Food

Learning 'vegetable' facts of life

EAST BERLIN, (Reuters) What's the difference between an aubergine and a kiwi fruit?

That may sound like the beginning of a joke, but for East Germans unfamiliar with a vast range of vegetables and fruits now appearing in their shops, the question is serious.

For years the country's communist rulers neglected the growing of fresh produce, turning over agriculture land to industry or to giant battery pig farms.

It is only now, with the fall of the old guard and the approach of German unification, that such basics as lettuce, tomatoes, mushrooms and lemons are creeping into the shops.

The trouble is, few people know what to do with them.

Enter Ulrike Hohmuth, an East Berlin author who has embarked on an unlikely project in a land whose diet is dominated by sausages, steaks, cold cuts and schnitzels — she is writing a vegetarian cookbook.

"Before, meat was promoted by the state as a symbol of well-being. On the rare occasions that aubergines appeared they just rotted because people didn't know what they were or how to prepare them," Hohmuth said.

"Now everyone wants to live like the West. They are excited by all the new fruits and vegetables. This book will help to orient them."

The book, arranged according to season and as yet untitled, will tell East Germans when produce is ripe, where to find it and how to get the most out of it for a varied diet.

Since even traditional German cooking caters almost exclusively for carnivores, Hohmuth has had to take recipes from around the world, or make them up herself.

"Germans are just stuck into their sauerkraut and dumplings — that's not a vegetarian tradition," she said.

Her dishes are mostly simple and undemanding — potatoes baked with rosemary and garlic, or pepper and asparagus salad — perhaps unsurprising in a country where doing the shopping has up to now been the hardest part of producing a meal.

In the old days, stores were unlikely to stock much more than a few spotted apples, onions, cabbage, shrivelled carrots and mangy-looking potatoes.

Now, having voted for the swiftest possible unity with West Germany in their first free elections, East Germans are snapping up Western goods in the shops — even at the expense of local products which are cheaper and often just as good.

The tumultuous political events of the last few months

have not only affected the production of food, but the production of Hohmuth's book too.

When she first proposed it last September, she wanted to write a "survival" guide for East Germans who wanted to give up meat but did not know how to go about it.

Now she has had to change her

plans to introduce vegetables previously unavailable in East Germany. I myself have to learn about all sorts of things I've never eaten," she said.

Although Hohmuth's will be the first cook book of its kind in East Germany, she is not the only one teaching East Germans how to tell their marrows from their melons.

Call of the wild on the African cuisine scene

By Laney Salisbury

HARARE, Zimbabwe: Boiled elephant trunk has not been a big hit. But crocodile tail, roasted warthog and hippo-burgers are being snapped up by tourists on the African circuit who want a menu as exotic as the surroundings.

"Tourists like to return home and boast they ate a crocodile. It's better than the other way around," said Jan de Haast, a director of Zimbabwe's Sun Hotel chain.

Ever sensitive to tourist appetites — and the revenues they generate — hotels, safari lodges and bush camps are heeding the call of the wild when it comes to cuisine.

Hungry for a little snack? Safari guide Garth Thompson of Harare suggests flying ants fried in fat from their own oily wings. "Just like popcorn," he said.

Quelea, a native bird smaller than a quail, makes a nice delicacy, as do field mice, according to Thompson. If that's not enough to make the mouth water, there are the succulent caterpillars found on the indigenous Mopani tree. Thompson says they're best when fresh, but just fine sun-dried.

He also recommends spicing up the local cornmeal staple, a porridge known as *sadza*, with grasshopper gravy.

Then there's Marc Cosyns, the Belgian-born head chef at Harare's Sheraton Hotel.

His roast warthog, he said a bit immodestly, is very nice indeed. "The legs, roasted with mint or apple sauce, are particularly good," he said.

Elephant trunk, hotelier De Haast concedes regretfully, presents problems even for the most resourceful of chefs.

For one thing, the average six-foot (1.8-metre) trunk is tough and muscular, takes six hours to boil and frankly isn't all that tasty. For another, few diners want to confront a pair of nostrils on their plate.

"It just looks too unappetizing," said De Haast. "The idea was doomed from the beginning."

One menu standard is Africa antelope, such as Kudu and Eland. The flavour is similar to that of venison.

"Game meat needs only simple preparation to bring out its delicate taste," said Cosyns. "It can be tough, so you marinate it first and eat it with a sauce, like garlic, mint, braise or marsala."

Little of the exotic food served up to tourists is actually killed in the wild, however. Much of it is farm-bred.

John White, a top official of the Harare-based Wildlife Producers Association, said the association's 460 members try to conserve wildlife by breeding species like zebra, waterbuck and white rhinoceros for food, hunting or game viewing.

Most game dishes sell for about the same price as ordinary fare although crocodile is a bit more expensive. It's much in demand, though.

The pinkish-white meat, from the tails of young crocodiles, tastes a little like lobster — or maybe chicken. It can be grilled, broiled or smoked and served with wild mushroom sauce, cornmeal patties or rice.

Such offerings are more popular with visitors than locals. Zimbabweans rarely eat game meat because of traditional African totem worship; many wild animals are depicted in totem symbols.

But Biltong — a kind of jerky consisting of sun-dried, salted and spiced impala — is a popular snack throughout eastern and southern Africa.

If all this sounds a little unappetizing, Harare writer Sam Munyavi said, consider some of the icons of French cuisine: Escargot, frog's legs. "One man's meat is another man's poison," Munyavi said.

No romance in bizarre marriage rituals

ANY young man embarking on marriage knows all those stories about mothers-in-law being monsters.

But you've seen nothing until you've encountered the bride's mother at a wedding in New Guinea.

Among sections of the Roro tribe, the bride is expected to defend herself from would-be captors — and her mother joins in to defend her, with no holds barred! Researcher Margaret Baker, who has made a study of marriage customs worldwide, says: "In the midst of the uproar, mother could wade in with a garden tool or club, lashing at everyone within reach, howling curses upon the 'ravishers' of her precious daughter."

In parts of the Ukraine, where the influence of the Christian church is strong, the bride takes a practical view of the entire proceedings. As soon as the couple are alone after the ceremony, the wife strips the husband of the wedding smock.

No, it's not in preparation for making love. The bride will forthwith embroider a cross on his smock — in readiness for the day she has to bury him!

Marriage rituals around the world are often bizarre rather than romantic. For the poorest families in Mexico and central parts of America, courting a girl is a formidable ordeal.

Some Mexican fathers, even those in families who accept the Catholic religion, still deal only with a peddler or go-between when it comes to considering a marriage proposal for their daughter. He has to

The wedding ring originated from an iron shackle used in primitive times to subdue a captured bride; brides get "chastity bonus" in an English country and hard labour in India and have death on their minds in the Ukraine.

speaking for the boy, asking the parents for the girl's hand in marriage.

At this point, the ordeal of the would-be-swain is just beginning. No expensive promises to his would-be father-in-law are taken for granted. The man has to prove himself — and that means working for the girl's father, either bringing in firewood or labouring in his fields right up to the wedding.

Hardly a conventional form of courtship — but neither, to this day, is a wedding within the Sikh community. When a baby girl is born, her parents say she is *parai* (someone else's property). She has to learn to be submissive and subservient. She must feel a sense of obligation to her father who is making provision for her dowry — and she must enter obediently into the marriage arranged by her father.

Image

Most people see the ring as the love image in a marriage ceremony, but the reality may be less romantic. "The wedding ring may well derive from an iron shackle that was used in primitive times to subdue a captured bride," says Margaret Baker.

"As for the ritual of tying shoes and tin cans to the honeymoon vehicle, it could recall those tumultuous days when any handy missile was hurled at the enemy and when the bride's family tried to obstruct the gateway."

If a wedding ring was originally an iron shackle, the same seemingly cannot be said for the engagement ring. The tradition of a diamond ring is Italian where, in medieval times, diamonds were believed to create harmony between the couple. The jewel itself was called the *pictura della reconciliation*... the stone of reconciliation.

In those days it was no simple betrothal piece of jewellery but what was known as a gimmel ring — a hoop which separated into two circles, one for each contracting



An Indian Hindu wedding.

party. After marriage, the two components would be reassembled to form the bride's wedding ring. Some gimmel rings even split into three or four, the additional rings being worn by witnesses to the betrothal.

Increasingly, American brides — many of them marrying for the second or even third time — are doing without engagement rings.

This all seems a bit drab and unromantic when you learn that in Malaysia a man presents a beautiful green, gold and crimson peacock, woven from paper or silk, to his bride. It holds an engagement ring which rests on perfumed petals in a silver bowl.

Wedding gifts are received eagerly by any couple setting up home together, it is not so much fun for the Japanese bride, however. To each person who gave her a present, she must give one in return and each must cost a particular amount.

Guests don't do so well in Malaysia, however. They just receive hard-boiled eggs when leaving the reception. Italian wedding guests are given little bags of sugar-coated almonds, an ancient fertility symbol. In Scotland, presents are displayed proudly at a tea given by the bride's mother about a week before the wedding.

Bonus

Turkish and Cypriot couples receive an extra bonus at the wedding reception. It is customary for guests to queue up and pin money on the bridegroom's suit.

Some wedding presents come from an unusual source. Each year, two brides who qualify as "poor but honest" — and who were born within the City of London — each receive £24. These are dowries paid to brides from a bequest made more than 100 years ago by Italian merchant Pasquale Favale who married a London girl.

Brides in the village of Witherslack, in the English county of Cumbria, can qualify for a £50 "chastity" bonus — paid out of a fund set up in the 17th century to reward those girls who went to the altar as virgins. The fund was set up by Dr John Barwick, a local vicar who became Dean of St Paul's Cathedral.

It produces £1,200 a year in interest and at Easter and Michaelmas, the 14 elders of the village decide who shall receive what is known as "The Maid's Portion".

A spokesman for the fund says: "We have moved with the times and these days the local lasses no longer need to be virgins



In India, bridegrooms seek obedience from the women they marry.

to qualify. Instead, they must produce a doctor's certificate to show they have never conceived out of wedlock."

In Western countries it is traditional for guests to remain respectfully silent during the ceremony. The nearest thing to emotion they display is to smile at the radiant bride and groom as they parade down the aisle or emerge from the church door.

Spirits

But during primitive times in northern European countries, a bride was often seized and hauled by vociferous guests to the altar, hemmed in by superstitious customs to ward off malignant evil spirits.

From those days derives the custom of the bridegroom giving a generous present to the best man. In the old days, it was cash in recognition of the help he gave in the "bride-fight".

And you won't get respectful silence if you attend a Hindu wedding. It is nothing for the ceremony to take a whole day with guests chatting and laughing throughout the ceremony.

The Hindu bride comes to the ceremony in a red silk sari — and she will bring her friends and family along, too. They then hide her away and everyone else goes out to greet the bridegroom in his white robes.

In China, the bride makes a breathtaking entrance on a red silk sedan chair ornamented with peacock feathers.



Sharing wealth: Cypriot bride



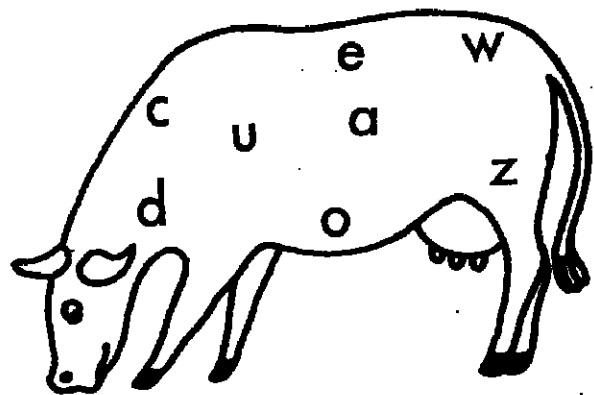
United in 'holy matrimony'.

JUNIOR TIMES

Lots of letters make a word

Draw a line from each letter of the animal's name to the same letters hidden in the drawing of the animal.

COW



A mother's job

A mother's job, is a real hard one, with lots to do, the work's never done, a crying child or angry Tot, you must take care no matter what. A dream, a faze they all go through, but mums should know what to do, to wipe a tear, or quell a fear, they trust implicitly in you.

Julie Hodgson

Wordsearch
I'M NOT SURE

CHANCY
CHANGEABLE
DOUBTFUL
DUBIOUS
IFFY
INDEFINITE
INSECURE
IRREGULAR
IRRESOLUTE
MAYBE

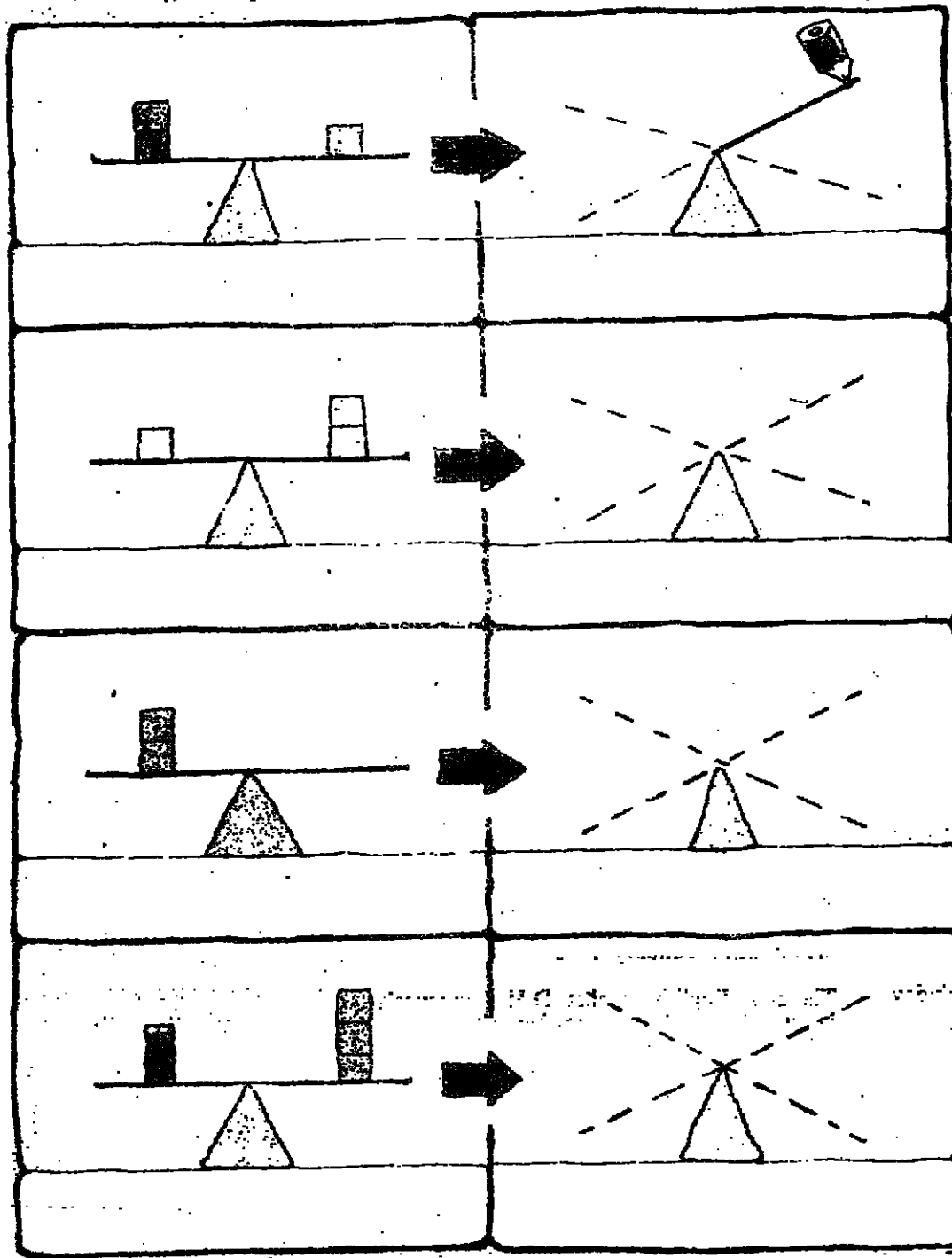
PERHAPS
PRECARIOUS
SHIFTY
UNDECIDED
UNSTEADY
UNSURE
VAQUE
VARIABLE

E V E E L B A I R A V E
T O R L L R R T I U Y
U R U D D B R A I N E L
L U S C I E A R D Y U B
O E N U G L D E E E G
S B U U O U E I G L A N
E Y L U B I N Y C N V O
R A L I N S R Y C E A R
R M O I E R R A T N D H
I U T C R R Y R C F A N
S E U R R F L E E E I N
U R L U F T B U O D R R
E U R I U S P A H R E P

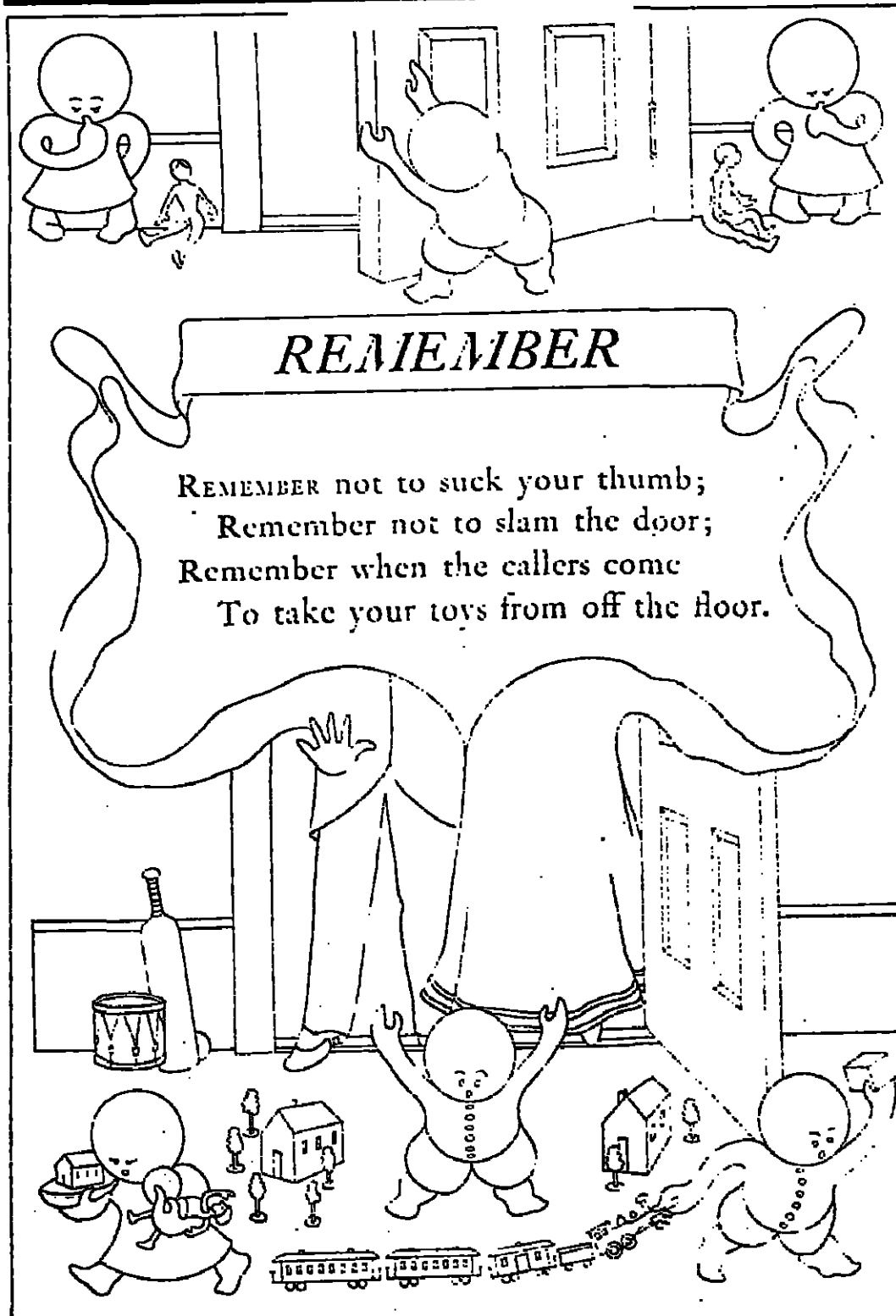
More see-saws

Which end goes up?

Draw which way it will tip.



The Goops again



REMEMBER

REMEMBER NOT TO SUCK YOUR THUMB;
REMEMBER NOT TO SLAM THE DOOR;
REMEMBER WHEN THE CALLERS COME
TO TAKE YOUR TOYS FROM OFF THE FLOOR.

Dear Junior Readers,

At the moment, the weather in Kuwait is at its hottest. In fact, the past few days have scored the highest temperatures over the past thirty years! The heat was sudden and I do not think that many of us were expecting it.

To keep happily healthy, we must try to avoid the direct heat, especially from noon to around 5 pm. If you have a school break during this time, stay in the shade — or indoors if permitted.

Do not play outdoor sports, or sunbathe during this period of time. You will certainly get sunstroke. This means a few very uncomfortable days in bed with a horrible headache!

Look after yourselves — health is a virtue.

Manal

Questions you'd like to ask

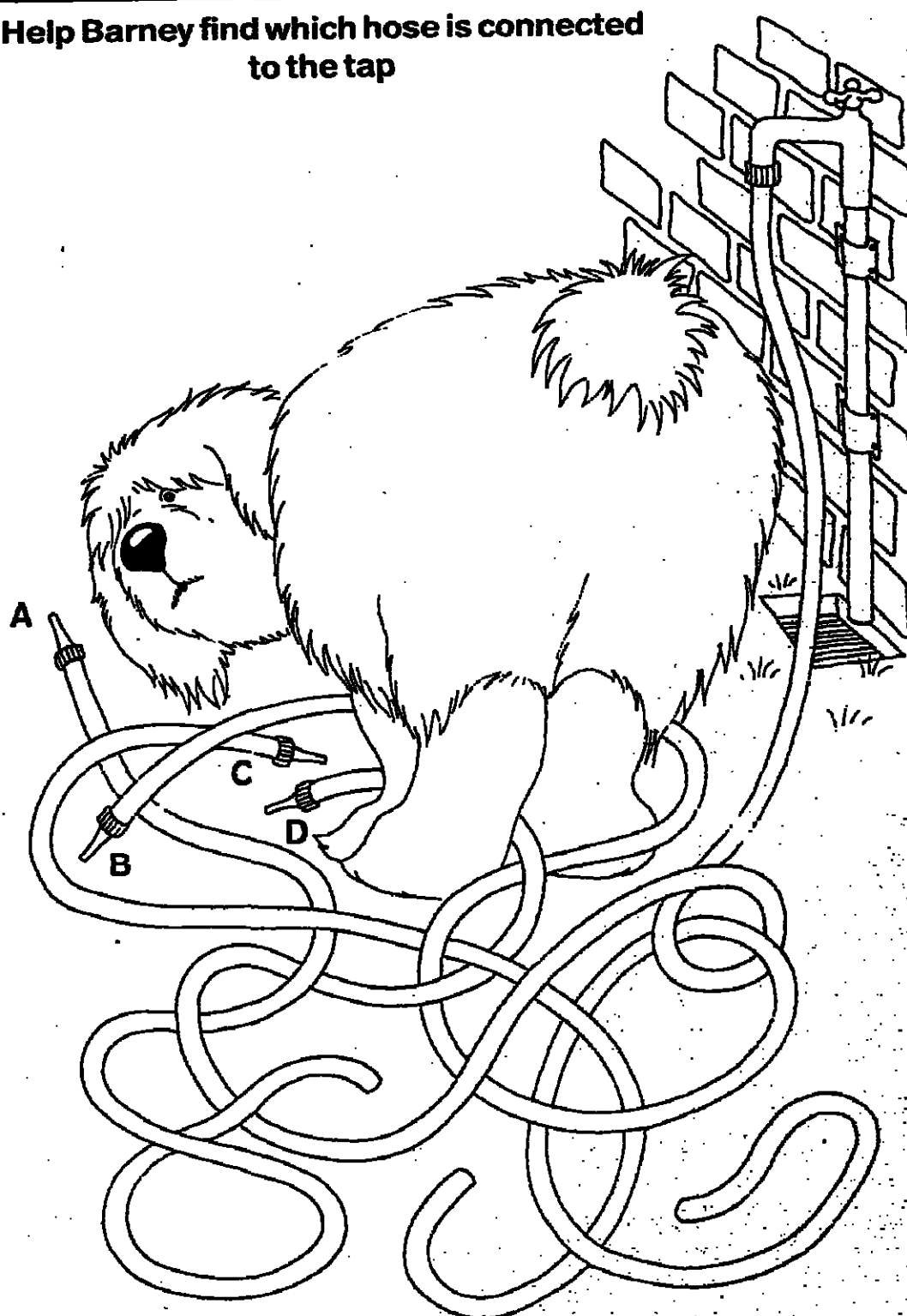
Sometimes I don't like to meet new people. Why do I feel like this?

This is shyness. Have you ever gone to a party at a strange house, where you didn't know anyone? Maybe you felt uncertain and scared and didn't want to talk to anyone. Most people feel shy at one time or another. The trick in overcoming shyness is to speak up or to try something new, in spite of your feelings.

Look at all those kids!
I don't know anyone
except Ellen.
Well, here goes...
Hi, I'm Cindy.

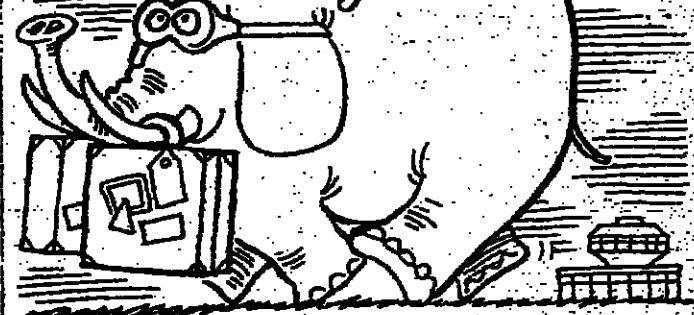


Help Barney find which hose is connected to the tap



What does an elephant fly in?

A jumbo? No, an ellycopter



Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

School: _____

Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:

ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait

To avoid delayed greetings please send within a week before the special date



The hound with the golden tooth

Meet Oliver — the pampered pooch with the 24-carat smile? The four-year-old golden retriever now has a golden smile after his dentist owner fitted him with the perfect canine crown.

Owner James Hooper explained: "Oliver broke the tooth on a piece of flint. He insists on chewing stones and house bricks! He shared off about half of the lower canine tooth and so it looked as if he would lose the whole tooth."

But after consulting Oliver's vet and a dentist friend who had worked on police dogs, James decided to rebuild Oliver's tooth. Impressions of the dog's teeth were made he was sedated,

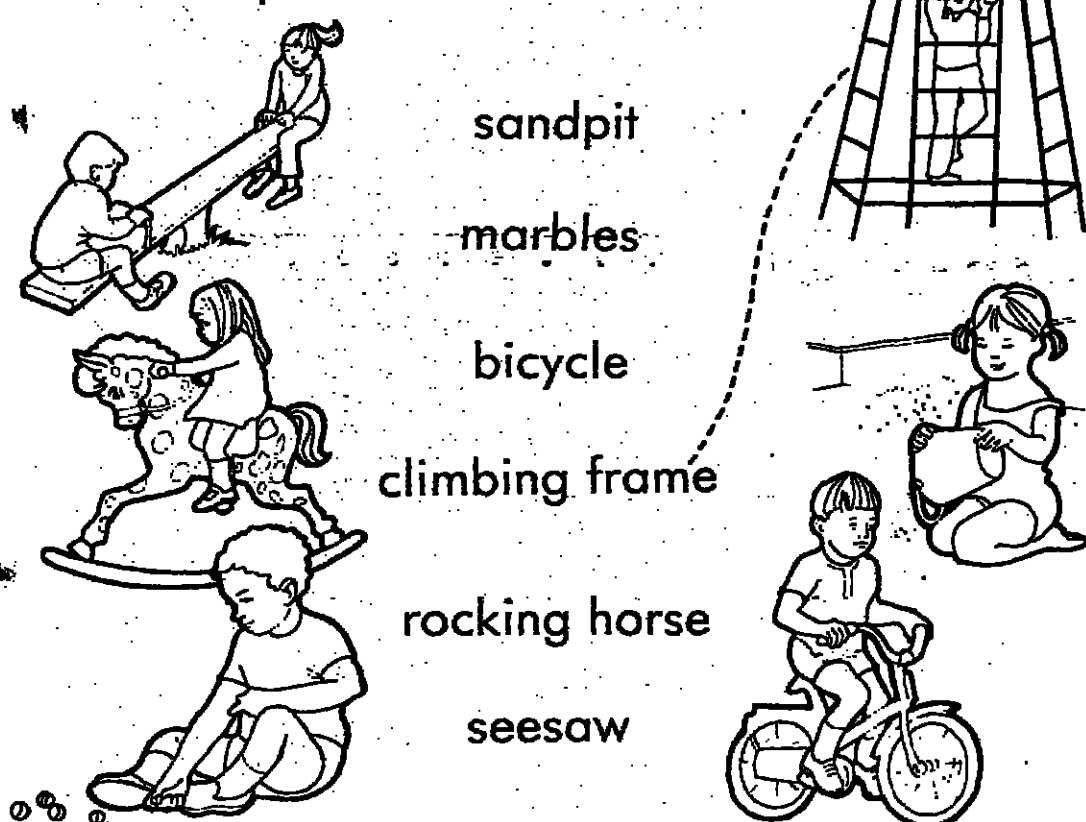
then the gold crown was fitted. James, who has a dental surgery in Hove, Sussex, told me "It came out so well, Oliver has hardly noticed it's there."

"The crown didn't have to be gold. It was only because Oliver's my dog and he is a GOLDEN retriever. I thought the yellow gold was the best thing to do."

He said Oliver was the model patient. "He is already used to me cleaning his teeth fairly regularly, so when it came to fitting the crown he was completely unruffled." The picture shows Oliver showing off his 24 carat crown.

Playing

Match the pictures to the words.



sandpit

marbles

bicycle

climbing frame

rocking horse

seesaw

Read the words.

Draw the pictures.

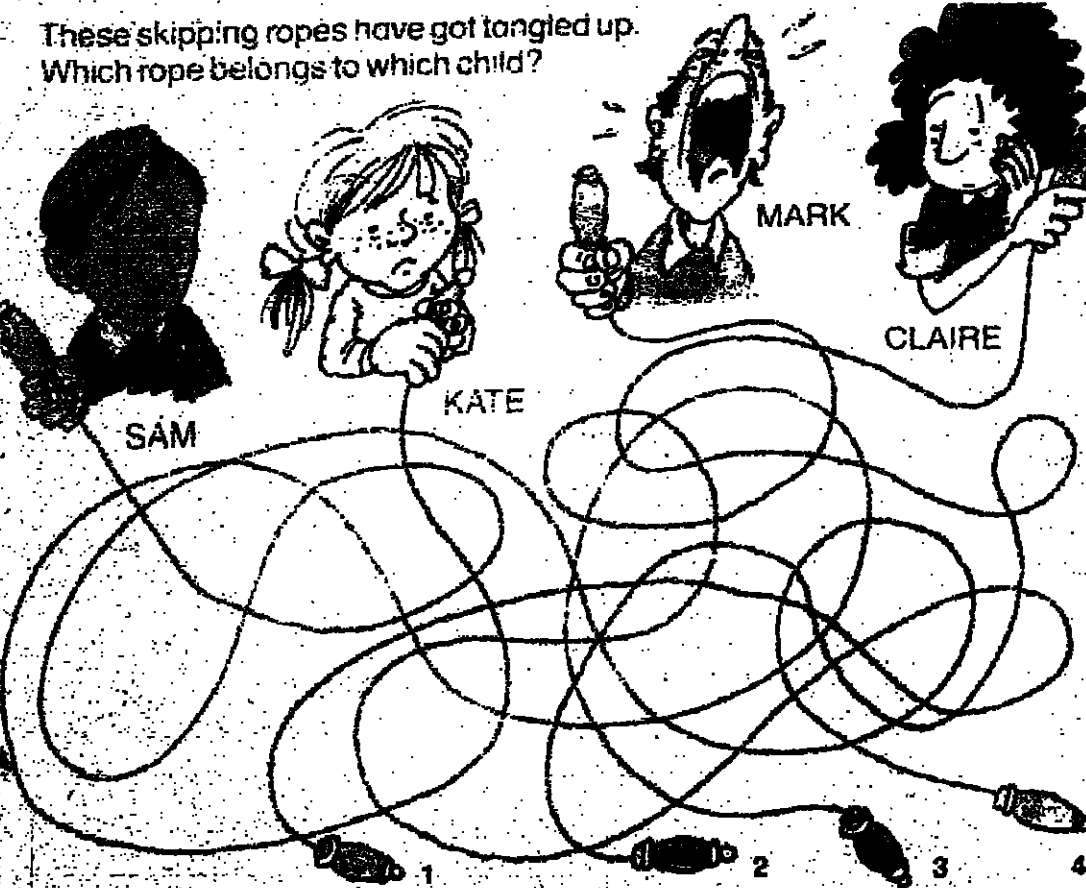
spade

skipping rope

bucket

Knotty problem

These skipping ropes have got tangled up. Which rope belongs to which child?



Dearest Vaneeta

EVER since I joined your school, I was always hearing about this really intelligent and very cool girl called Vaneeta (that's you) and I was always hoping that we could be friends someday. But I really never had the chance or the guts to speak to you.

It wasn't until the beginning of last month that we actually met. I was overcome by your friendliness and we soon shared the most intimate secrets. I tried to keep my distance for I knew you were to leave and as my other friends say that I am a very emotional girl. I knew that I would end up with a terrible heart. But the more I tried the closer I got to you.

I can hardly imagine what Libi, Kausar and the rest of the "Kool Kats" who knew you for eleven years are going through, cause though I knew you for only a month and a half I feel such grief now that you are leaving.

Oh! How much Mr Potan will miss the "Physics Professor" and then there's Mrs Abraham who will miss her best student. And the New Basketball Team is losing its captain, the school is saying good-bye to the jolliest girl in town and there's me... Well I shall be losing a very nice and wonderful friend.

I was just glancing at the card that read "Thanks for being such a wonderful friend, Love Vaneeta." And I can feel warm droplets of tears trickle down my cheeks. I hold the card close to my heart and try to picture you in a country far, far away from where I now am. Oh! Vaneeta, it's so awful. But I am happy for you and I am sure that everyone is happy for you too. And as Katherine from "Beauty and the Beast" used to say and though we can never be together, we shall never ever be apart.

I would like to give you something special. I concluded this letter with it... a poem from me for you...

"I like to see Vaneeta go, Dribbling the ball to and fro.

And when her face lights up a smile,

It warms up the place within a mile!"

She's a smooth as the Rocky's golden lashes,

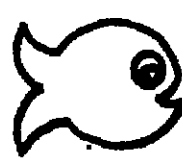


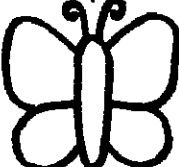
And as fast as a hare as he dashes,

Just like a river graceful's her pace,

With the touch of an angel highlighting her face!!!"

Love
Amina Reza

Complete this table

Draw and colour				
Red				
Blue				
Green				
Yellow				
Spotted				
Striped				

Happy birthday



Shantun Pharas turns 5 on May 27.



Nona Faiz turns 2 on May 28.



Zarina Mendonca turns 7 on May 27.



Errol D'Souza turns 1 today (May 24).

Firsts and lasts

The first performance of one of Mozart's best-loved operas, Don Giovanni, took place only the day after he had finished writing it.

In Spain the first of April is called Boob day.

Everyone flies a kite during the first week of the New Year in Korea. The kites are then released to carry away bad luck.

Cars were first started by ignition keys in 1949.

One of the twentieth century's most celebrated conductors, Leopold Stokowski, first conducted an orchestra when he was only 12 years old.

Britain's first full-size supermarket, 'The London Co-op' at Manor Park had its grand opening on 12th of January, 1948.

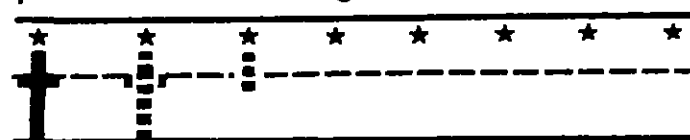
The great English novelist, D.H. Lawrence's last words were 'I am getting better'!

The phrase 'The Three Rs', standing for reading, writing and arithmetic, was first coined by Sir William Curtis — who was unable to read or write.

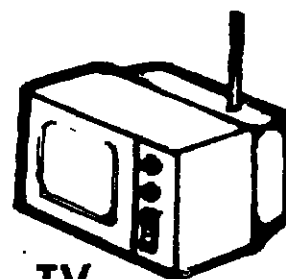


This is a t.

Here are some pictures of words that begin with t. Point to each picture. Say the words. Color the pictures. Trace the letter t with a pencil. Practice making the letter.



telephone



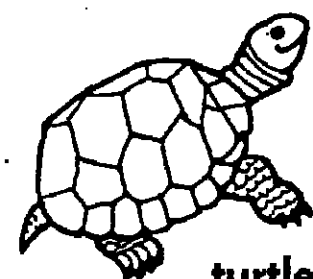
TV



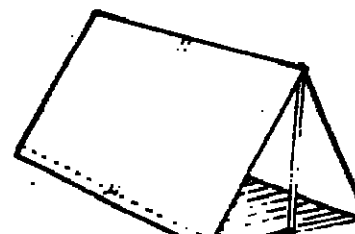
turkey

ten 10

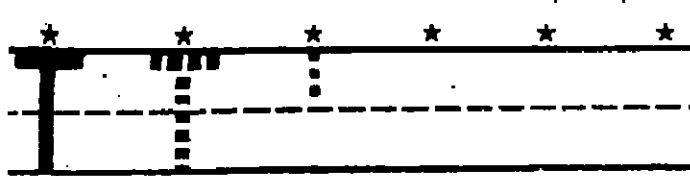
ten



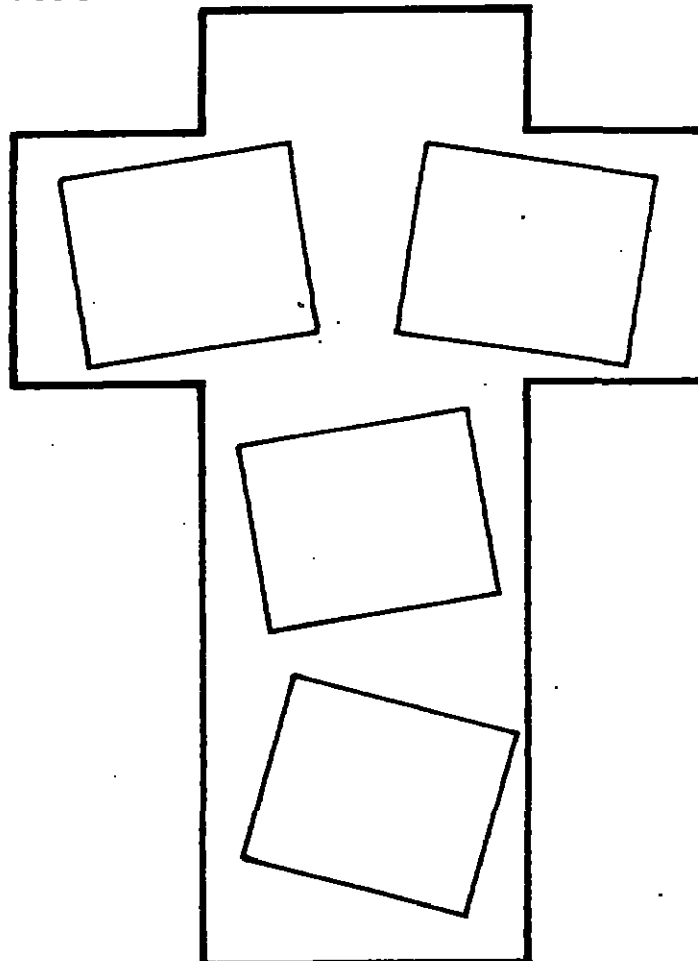
turtle



tent

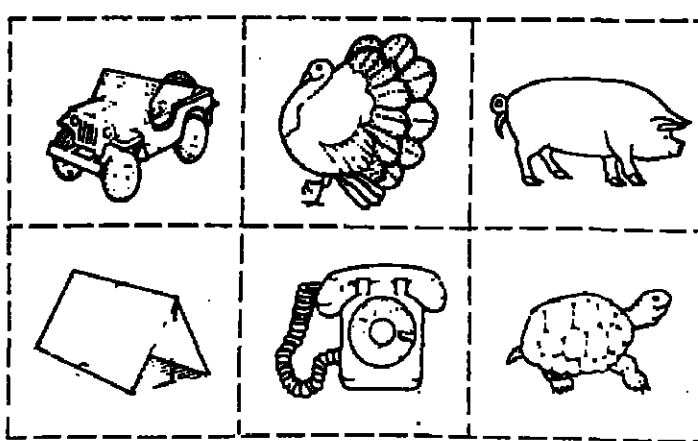


Cut out pictures of things that begin with t. Paste them on the letter.



Skills: Sound-letter association and letter-sound discrimination.

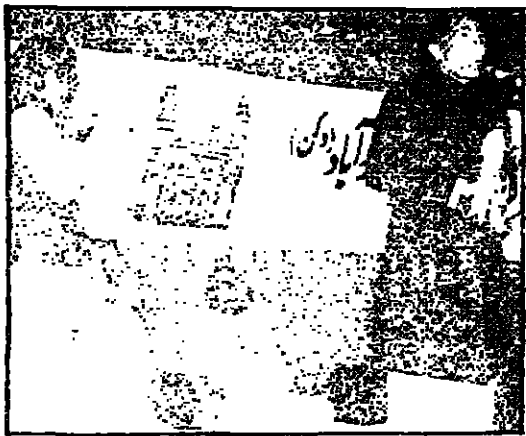
Cut on the dotted lines.



EVENTS



Chief guest Salahuddin Owaisi speaking at the mushaira.



Guest poet Salahuddin Naiyar recites an Urdu poem.



Siasat Editor Abid Ali Khan.

LIL's Persian connection



Mozyn (right) and a LIL member demonstrate the custom of covering the bride's head with a gold embroidered, tassled chador.



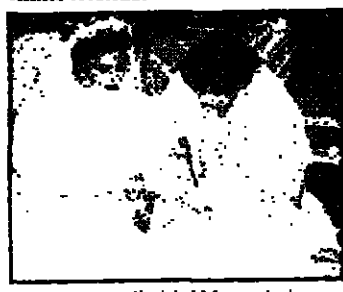
LIL president Barbara (left) addressing members.

A PERSIAN wedding demonstration was the highlight of a social evening organised recently by the Ladies International League (LIL) at the Holiday Inn Hotel.

LIL, one year old, devotes its social evenings to better understanding the cultures of various communities in Kuwait. A ladies grouping, it has grown from a handful of members to its present numbers exceeding 130 belonging to 29 countries.

The only truly international ladies group in Kuwait, LIL members saw a "Persian wedding," organised by one of their members, Mozyin Jeddli. "It felt like a true wedding," said LIL president Barbara Corn.

The group will hold a newcomers meeting (see What's On). Barbara said ladies of all nationalities are welcome to join the League as it could give them a chance to meet new people and make friends.



Persian bride Mona (who played the role) and presenter Mozyin Jeddli.



Hoshdar Khan receives Mohan Kumar Nigam, director Salarjung Museum.

Hyderabadis hold mushaira

Urdu poets revive literary memories

THE Hyderabad community in Kuwait last week held a mushaira (poetry evening) at the Ice skating rink hall. The event was part of the Hyderabad's 400th year anniversary celebration.

Some of the people who attended the mushaira said the event revived memories of such events back home in Hyderabad. They said the Urdu poetry evening was a memorable evening, highlighted by the presence of some of the best known poets from Hyderabad.

Abid Ali Khan, editor of Urdu daily Siasat, presided; chief guest was Indian parliamentarian Salahuddin Owaisi. Dr Sami Khan welcomed guests. Itheshamuddin introduced the Hyderabad Celebration Committee and Major Mazhar Khan released the souvenir.

In his presidential address, Abid Ali Khan focussed on the need to improve and promote educational facilities in keeping with recent developments.

The literary atmosphere was heightened by the presence of a large number of noted Urdu poets, both local and guests. Indian residents of Kuwait included Baqi Ahmad Puri, Abdul Hameed Hosh, Niaz Benarsi, Kamal Azhar, Iftekhar Azmi, Shahid Razaq, Adil Bahadurgarhi, Amber Fatehpuri, Hamid Kartarpuri, Shahjehan Jaffery, Masarrat Jabeen Zeba and Noor Parkar. Among the guest poets were Salahuddin Naiyar, Dr Mohan Lal Nigam, Mustafa Ali Baig, Himayatullah and Ghous Mohiuddin Khamakha.

Noor Parkar and Salahuddin Naiyar were the competitors. The winners of the essay writing competition — Mrs Naiyar Jehan Rafatullah (English), Ms M. Deepthi Balaswamy (students, English) and Ibrahim Ziaee (Urdu) — received their awards.

Dr Sami Khan proposed a vote of thanks. The event's sponsors Mohammad Hoshdar Khan and M. Shabeen Khan donated 10 per cent of the gate collection to the poor students educational fund in Hyderabad. They also announced that Rs 50,000 will be donated to the Andhra Pradesh cyclone victims fund.



Madhavi Deepthi Balaswamy receives her prize.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Kaola: cartoons
- 9.45 Good Morning: magazine show
- 10.00 Magazine d'Actualite (repeat)
- 10.15 Qaloo Zamaan Ala Rai Al Mithl: Arabic serial. Last episode. Starring: Hala Fakher, Hussain Al Sharbini.
- 11.00 Good Morning
- 11.15 Open University
- 12.14 Huwar Wa Nagham: prepared by Khaled Bu Hamad, directed by Ibrahim Al Kazemi.
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 World News via Satellite
- 1.30 Min Ghair Kalaam: variety programme
- 2.00 Songs and music
- 2.45 Animal World: educational programme
- 3.15 God's Creation: religious programme
- 5.00 Sally: cartoon series
- 6.00 Ayyam Al Ramad: Arabic serial
- 7.00 With Students: educational
- 8.00 Kul Al Funoon: focus on arts, presented by Rasha Magdi
- 8.30 With Islam
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Muzzakarat Zauj: Arabic serial
- 10.45 Darb Al Jidd'an: Arabic feature film, starring Yusuf Shabaan, Imaan, Hussain Sharbini, Aziz Rashed.
- 12.15 Thursday's Variety Show
- 1.15 News Summary
- 1.20 World News via Satellite
- 1.45 Holy Quran/Closedown

FRIDAY

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.20 Cartoons
- 9.45 Halawa Shaqawah: children's serial
- 10.00 Variety
- 10.15 Children's Magazine
- 11.00 Ahadith: religious programme
- 11.15 Friday Prayer: live from Grand Mosque
- 12.20 Colours
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 Hadith: Deeni: religious talk by Sheikh Mohammad Mitwalli Al Sharawi
- 2.15 Hindi Feature Film
- 4.30 Variety
- 5.00 Sally: cartoons
- 6.00 Kuwait in a Week: weekly roundup of local news
- 6.30 Programmes Preview
- 7.00 Water is Life: educational programme
- 8.00 With the Family
- 8.45 Weekly Religious Talk
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Muzzakarat Al Zawaaj: Episode 11
- 10.30 Late Night Variety Show



Bill Cosby Show: on Thursday night, KTV 2.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Police Academy: cartoon series
- 6.30 Mr Wizard's World: educational programme for young viewers
- 7.00 Wild America: a look at evergreen trees like pines, cedars etc.
- 7.30 Munsters Today: "There's No Place Like..." Herman's family moves into a flat and finds the going rough.
- 8.40 Beauty and the Beast: "In the Forest of the Night", Vincent rescues a man who killed nine drug traffickers. Diana defends him. Starring: Ron Perlman.
- 9.30 Bill Cosby Show: marital strife is the theme of tonight's comedy show. Starring: Bill Cosby, Phyllis Rashad.
- 10.00 Just for the Record: features on the world's TV addict and other remarkable events and people.
- 10.30 Thursday Night Movie: "Yellow Hair". The Red Indians help a white girl find her parents.
- 12.00 News in Brief/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Popeye and Son: cartoon
- 6.30 Family Feature Film: "Herbie Rides Again". Hawk tries to convince a woman that she would be better off selling her

- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Breaking Away: spotlight on recreation in Kuwait
- 8.45 Globe TV: A Ticket to the World: this show opens the window to the world.
- 9.30 Weekend: "Art is Paradise" features artists like Nadia Ghazali. Arab Tapestry exhibition: entertainment and just for a laugh. President by Aadeeb Shuaiber, Maha Molawi.
- 10.00 Tales From The Dark-side: "Grandma's Last Wish". A family plan to get rid of their crippled grandmother. A story with an unusual twist.
- 10.30 Wiseguy: "Day One". Vinnie plays a vital role in protecting currency fluctuations.
- 11.30 News in Brief/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown

Sports TV Channels 6/45

- Thursday
- 1.05 Local sport news
- 1.20 Arab sport highlights
- 1.40 World sport highlights
- 2.00 American Basketball
- 3.30 Viewer's Request
- 5.30 Soccer Stars: focus on Holland
- 6.30 Equestrian
- 7.00 Review of Amiri Cup matches
- 8.00 Special programme on the retirement of Kuwait soccer player Yusuf Suwayed

- Friday
- 2 pm onwards: broadcasts of local and world sporting highlights until midnight. Highlights include live telecast of Amiri Cup soccer matches for the 3rd and 4th positions: free-style wrestling.

WHAT'S ON

Arts

Boushahri Gallery
A MONTH-LONG exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists is now being held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salamiya Bldg, Salem Al Mubarak St. The works of such artists as Jaafar Isah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jama'ei are on show. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm; 4 to 7.30 pm; until month end.

Theatre

IAC One-Act Play Contest
May 24: Samarpan Teen Bandar, Gujarati; Bhatia Miral Mandal present Kissa Bahul Ki Angan Ki, Hindi. Kuwait Dramatic Society present Malayalam play Akkathun.

May 30: Madhu and Friends present Kridhate Nanti, Malayalam; Stage Index perform Shanti Parvam, Malayalam.

May 31: Bengali Cultural Society's Madhuk Singhbad; Bengali IAC badminton team perform Chaitanyam and His Chai; Malayalam, Nithya Bharati present Kahan (Shroud), Hindi.

June 1: Award Nite and Entertainment Show, followed by dinner at 7 pm.
All performances at IAC. Finals: 7.30 pm. For details call 3904817. Entry passes for all performances, including Award Nite are available from IAC.

Tamil Drama
MAY 25: IAC presents a full-length comedy drama, produced by The Enthusiasts, entitled Ummi Ummi (Crazy Thieves), 7 pm; directed by C.V.K. Raman. IAC Box Office open on May 23-24, 6 to 8.30 pm. For entry passes call 3904817, 5616930, 4889874, 3903879.

Polish Charity Concert

MAY 24: 8 pm. Mousetrap Theatre. The Polish Charity Concert takes place. Polish and Yugoslavian musicians will perform a rich selection of classical music, including Chopin, Schubert, Brahms etc. In addition to a light-and-sound show — Faces of the Desert — with electronic music composed by Mark Bilinsky and Video-Rama by Jacek Wozniak. Tickets — KDS, Mousetrap Box Office open from 4-6 pm in the evenings. For telephone bookings call 2667624, 4747879.

Kuwait Players
KUWAIT Players present 4 Room Full of Foreigners, a comedy, nightly at 8 pm from May 28 to 31, both days inclusive, at UAS, Salwa. For reservations call 5321294, 5615357.

Social

Kuwait Players AGM
JUNE 4: Kuwait Players annual general meeting: 8 pm. Al Foz Messilah Beach Hotel.

Story Time
May 24: 10.30 am. Story Time for children, ages 3-7, at British Council. Professional story teller, Merry's last presentation. Pls. book seats. Tel: 2515512; 253204; 3327.

LIL
May 28: Monday, 10 am to 12 noon: Ladies International League (LIL) hold Newcomers Meeting: coffee morning; Sheraton Hotel, mezzanine. Ladies of all nationalities welcome. For details call Ann — 531-6905.

June 4: LIL will hold Latino programme: Regency Palace Hotel: 8 pm sharp: doors open: 6 pm, close: 7.45 pm. No one will be allowed to enter after programme begins. Door charge. Extravaganza features performers from Columbia, Bolivia, Argentina and other Latin countries.

Kalepak

MAY 25: The Kerala Art and Literature Association will celebrate its first anniversary at Indian Embassy Hall, 5 pm. Variety show followed by anniversary celebration.

Summer Affair '90
MAY 24: Summer Affair '90 at Regency Palace Hotel. Highlights include selection of 1990 Summer Queen and Ms Kodak. For reservations contact Julio, 4315425; Hilary, 5741380; Mercedes, 4890566.

NRI update
MAY 25: NRI Investors Forum meeting: 11 am; Indian Embassy Hall; update on Third NRI Gulf Conference in New Delhi; followed by lunch. All Indians welcome.

Sport

Filchess Chess Tournament
THE Filipino Chess Club, Kuwait, will hold the Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament. Teams: four regulars, two stand-bys. Group A: Boards 1-2; Group B: Boards 3-4.
Open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts. Entry forms from Kabayan Restaurant. Last date for entries: May 25. Tournament starts June 1 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For further details contact 2402405.

Windsurfing
MAY 25: Messilah Beach Hotel's Windsurfing event. All welcome. Entry fee: KD 3. Maximum sail size: 7.5 sq.m. For details call 5624111 ext. 739.

Competition

Approb Essay Competition
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen holds an essay competition. Essays on "My Role in Build-

ing a Better Pakistan" can be submitted by Pakistani students. Open to juniors (12-14); seniors (15-18). Essays of between 1,000 and 1,500 words can be written in English and Urdu.

Send essays to: Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salamiya, 22024. Kuwait. Last date for entries: May 31. For details contact 2425315.

Hotels

At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiyah, open Around the clock: seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine. Al Jawharah, Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band. Al Beidowneh: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At the Plaza:
Al Dallah Coffee Shop, international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.
Lolouwah Corner, snacks and refreshing summer drinks. Marco Polo, Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.
Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday: Arabic band entertains guests. Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the SAS
Bistretto: Sunday-Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine: lunch and dinner. Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.
Clock snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the Meridian

La Brasserie Restaurant Wednesday: Indonesian Corner, cuisine prepared in front of you.

Thursday: Jazz Night — jazz music, seafood specialities. Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet: family day. Versallies: Business lunch and dinner featuring fondue; grilled food.

At the Sheraton
Riccardo: Asparagus promotion, until May 26; plus Italian cuisine; dine to the sounds of Franco and Regina.

At Ramada Al Salam
Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.

Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight. Al Gandouf Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food. Friday brunch, 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

Music

Summer Rock Concert
June 4/5/6: High Spirits and Seventh Sky rock concert; music from Police, Dire Straits, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses etc. For reservations call 5387988/2563395 after 5 pm.

Lecture

Higher education
MAY 28: 6 pm. Lecture and video show: "Access to your first degree" focus on how to get on a British degree programme. Open to Kuwaiti, Indian and Pakistani students and parents. At the British Council, Mansouriya. Reserve seats. Tel: 2520067/8/9 and ask for Kate Harries or Elizabeth Lockey.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Hanafi Al Abhahu (Arabic) Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Rumzi, Farouq Fishawi
Al Salamiya
Al Raqqassah Wal Siyase'en (Arabic) Starring: Nabila Obaide, Salah Qabil
Al Hamra
Al Raqqassah Wal Siyase'en (Arabic) Starring: Mustafa Mutwalli, Nabila Obaide
Drive-In
Hanafi Al Abhahu (Arabic) Starring: Farouq Fishawi, Adel Imam, Huda Rumzi
Al Firdous
Commando (Hindi) Starring: Mandakani, Mithun Chakraborty
Fahadeed Open-Air
Duana Puani (Hindi)

Al Fahadeed
Humki (Bengali) Starring: Iqbal Madrasah (Arabic) Granada
Sisterhood
Salaibikhat
Ammavannu Pattiya Amali
(Malayalam)
Al Jeeb
Dile-Nadana (Hindi)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Sahebak Min Biktak (Arabic)

FRIDAY
Al Jabra
Mad Mission V Granada
Mob Busters
Salaibikhat
Mad Mission IV
Al Jeeb
Mera Suhaag (Hindi)

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.19 am
Zuhr 11.43
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 6.38
Isha 8.07

FRIDAY
Fajr 3.19 am
Zuhr 11.43
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 6.39
Isha 8.08

• All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaiikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

Malayalee lawyers picnic

THE Malayalee Law Graduates Forum recently held a picnic for families at the Ahmadi gardens. A large number of families attended. Men, women and children said the Ahmadi garden reminded them of Kerala.

Games and sports were organised for children and adults. They were conducted by A.J. Sebastian, A.C. Chacko and C.M. Mathews.

Philip Thampan, T.M. Varghese, P.O. Thomas Panicker, Pyarelal and Samuel John conducted other entertainment activities.

Samuel John welcomed guest; and P.O. Thomas Panicker proposed a vote of thanks.

Tenby

MADE IN ENGLAND

China beat North Korea for crown

OSAKA, Japan, May 23, (AP): World champion China won the World Team Cup women's table tennis championship yesterday, beating North Korea in the final of the \$132,000 event.

Playing before 3,000 spectators at the Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium in western Japan, China's Chen Zhibe, No. 5 in the world, scored a 21-19, 23-21 victory

over Yu Sun Bok, winner of the 1989 Asian Cup in Beijing.

Deng Yaping, a member of last year's world champion doubles pair, beat Li Bun Hui, runner-up in the world championships, 24-22.

In doubles, China's Deng and world champion Qiao Hong beat Yu and Li Mi Suk 21-16, 21-16.

In the semifinals, China beat Japan and North Korea beat South Korea.

In the first semifinal, Qiao Hong beat former Japanese champion Rika Sato 21-19, 21-15 and Deng Yaping beat Japanese national champion Mika Hoshino 16-21, 21-14, 21-15.

In the doubles, the Chinese pair of Deng and Chen Zhibe beat Sato and Miki Katsukawa of Japan 21-12, 21-12.

In the second semifinal, North Korea's Yu Sun Bok beat Hyun Jung-Hwa, a doubles winner at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, 21-17, 7-21, 21-18, and Lin Bun Hui beat Hong Cha-Ok 19-21, 21-12, 21-5.

The North Korean pair of Yu and Li Mi Suk beat Hong Cha-Ok and Hong Soon-Hwa 15-21, 21-13, 21-17.

Brewers hold off Mariners

Spiers takes Milwaukee to victory



Oakland Athletics' Jose Canseco (right) slams forearms with teammate Walt Weiss in their American League game last night. Oakland won 5-4. (Reuters wirephoto)

MILWAUKEE, May 23, (UPI): Pitcher Bill Spiers singled home Glenn Braggs with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning yesterday to give the Milwaukee Brewers a 3-2 victory over the Seattle Mariners in an American League baseball game.

With one out in the ninth and the score tied 2-2, Glenn Braggs singled to right off reliever Bill Swift, 2-1. Charlie O'Brien followed with a single to left-center, sending Braggs to third.

Spiers pinch hit for Edgar Diaz and left-hander Keith Comstock relieved Swift. Spiers then bounced a 3-2 pitch over first base to score Braggs.

Mark Knudson, 3-1, allowed two runs on seven hits. He struck out three and walked one for his first complete game of the season.

Seattle starter Randy Johnson allowed two runs on two hits in seven innings. He struck out nine and walked six, which were both season highs. Swift relieved to start the eighth.

The Brewers scored twice in the second on one hit to take a 2-0

lead. With one out, Braggs was hit by a pitch and then stole second. Diaz drew a two-out walk and Paul Molitor followed with a two-run double down the right-field line.

Seattle cut the lead to 2-1 in the third. Scott Bradley singled to open the inning but was forced at second when Mike Brumley reached on a fielder's choice. Harold Reynolds doubled Brumley to third and Greg Briley followed with a sacrifice fly.

Ken Griffey Jr.'s 10th home run with one out in the fourth enabled Seattle to tie the score at 2-2.

Results	
American League	National League
Milwaukee 3	Seattle 2
Oakland 5	Toronto 4
N.Y. Yankees 5	Chicago WS 2
Baltimore 10	Minnesota 2
Texas 5	Boston 4
California 8	Cleveland 3
Kansas City 9	Detroit 8
Chicago Cubs 2	Cincinnati 1
Philadelphia 4	San Francisco 2
N.Y. Mets 8	Los Angeles 3
Montreal 6	San Diego 1
St. Louis 4	Atlanta 3
Pittsburgh 8	Houston 4



Pierre Fehlmann, Merit's skipper, is thrown overboard. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kiwi yachts dominate

SOUTHAMPTON, England May 23, (Reuters): New Zealand's Steinlager 2 swept to victory and an ecstatic champagne welcome in the 33,000-mile Whitbread Round the World Yacht race yesterday.

New Zealand flags waved as a fleet of pleasure boats escorted captain Peter Blake's red-sailed craft past the finish line in the southern English port Southampton after the sixth and final leg of the tough nine-month contest.

Second was Fisher and Paykel, another New Zealand ketch, which dogged Steinlager for most of the race and came in just 36 minutes and 25 seconds adrift.

The Swiss sloop Merit, skippered by Pierre Fehlmann, was third, two hours 20 minutes and 30 seconds behind the winner.

Steinlager was the first yacht to win all stages of the race.

"I'm just going to have a holiday for a year," said Blake as crowds of cheering New Zealanders hailed his triumph.

It had been the hardest Whitbread he had ever completed in, he told reporters.

"Hardest because of the competition, hardest because it was longer and hardest because the boats have been driven faster."

The finish, originally expected 12 hours earlier, was delayed by unfavourable winds in the final stretch.

"We just wanted to get here and finish the race and have a lovely party," Blake said. "If you haven't done the Whitbread race, you haven't sailed. It's hell of a race."

Organisers praised the 16 crew of the winning yacht for immaculate preparation and skilful seamanship.

The race has been marred by three deaths. A Soviet skipper hanged himself. A Swedish yachtman died in a motorcycle accident and a Briton died after being knocked overboard.

It was the fifth and longest Whitbread race and 23 yachts were involved.

An all-female crew, skippered by 26-year-old Tracey Edwards, took part for the first time, and their British yacht Maiden was expected to arrive in Southampton tomorrow night or Friday morning.

The custom-built yacht sailed from Southampton to Punta Del Este, then went east to Australia and New Zealand. They continued east back to Punta del Este in February and stopped in Fort Lauderdale before heading back to England.

The 300 sailors slept in four-hour shifts and ate freeze-dried meals while battling 50-foot (15-metre) waves and icebergs. Built for speed, the ships provided few luxuries.



Steinlager 2 is welcomed by spectator boats. (Reuters wirephoto)



Blake kisses his wife Pippa while their 3-year-old son James watches. (Reuters wirephoto)

E. Germans can compete anywhere

EAST BERLIN, May 23, (Reuters): East Germany's world-beating athletes will be able to compete where they want this season and keep most of the appearance money, the Berliner Zeitung newspaper reported today.

It quoted Athletics Federation (DVFL) chief Heinz Kadow as saying East Germany would also be able to attract more international stars to its Olympic Day Grand Prix meeting on July 4 by offering more money.

Under the old communist system, athletes were strictly chaperoned and allocated events. Prize or attendance money for foreigners was limited.

Now East German organisers have secured sponsors for the Grand Prix event.

Kadow said the DVFL would hold talks with the West German Athletics Federation (DLV) this weekend to discuss how to merge their organisations as unification approaches.

According to ADN news agency, Kadow said some joint German teams could appear at selected international meetings next year. But this would first need the approval of the international government bodies.

Kadow said East German athletes had been distracted during the indoor season because of uncertainties about their future.

Now the DVFL has arranged firm contracts for all 160 top athletes to allow them to concentrate on training.

Hill to take on Tyrone Frazier in title fight

BISMARCK, North Dakota, May 23, (Reuters): World Boxing Council light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill, has signed to defend his title against Tyrone "Puff of Smoke" Frazier on July 7, promoters announced yesterday.

Hill, who is recovering from a broken bone in his left hand, will be making his ninth defence when he takes on Frazier at the Bismarck Civic Centre.

Frazier, who changed from his given name of Tyrone Mitchell after joining the camp of former heavyweight champion "Smokin'" Joe Frazier two years ago, has a record of 17-1-3.

Hill injured his hand while training for an April fight in Las Vegas against British commonwealth champion Guy Waters. The champion said he would fight Frazier rather than Waters in his next bout because it was a more attractive match as far as television was concerned.

"ABC (television network) thinks that will be a more marketable fight," said Hill, who has won all 27 of his professional bouts.

Patrese hopes to win Monaco GP

MONTE CARLO, May 23, (Reuters): Riccardo Patrese hopes to maintain the Williams team's long-awaited revival and ruin McLaren's hopes of a Monaco Grand Prix hat-trick in Sunday's race through the streets of Monte Carlo.

The Italian veteran, whose win at Imola on May 13 was only his third in 195 Grands Prix, expects a much tougher and more competitive race in Monaco, but still believes his Renault engine Williams can take him to victory again.

"I still cannot describe how happy I felt about my win in Imola," said Patrese as he looked forward to Sunday's race. "And I am sure I have another good chance in Monaco. It will be a less open race, but if I can do well in qualifying I think we stand a very good chance

of having another victory."

The 78-lap race round the 3.32-km street circuit is widely regarded as the most glamorous on the calendar.

With the streets, shops and harbour providing a picturesque backdrop, the spectacle is always magnificent, but the racing is often slow and predictable with the accent on balance and perfection in car preparation and driving.

After three different winners in the season's opening three races, it is difficult to predict the outcome as both the Tyrrell-Ford and Minardi-Ford teams expect to be very competitive on the twisting circuit.

Ayrton Senna of Brazil will be keen to repeat his brilliant victory of last year for his third in Monaco overall and McLaren's third

in succession — Frenchman Alain Prost won here for the British Team in 1988.

Ferrari, too, will be desperate for a win to keep alive their early-season optimism after winning in Brazil where world champion Prost recorded his first triumph for the Italian team and the 40th of his career.

But if any team can take advantage of the maverick nature of Monaco's street circuit, it is likely to be Tyrrell who have one of the toughest street-fighting drivers of all in Frenchman Jean Alesi.

Second in Brazil and in the points at San Marino 10 days ago, Alesi has announced his arrival in Formula One with a flourish and it would be no surprise to see him land the Tyrrell team their first win since Detroit in 1983.

Christie, Jackson set to spearhead drug battle

LONDON, May 23, (UPI): Olympic silver medalists Linford Christie and Colin Jackson are to spearhead a new assault by British track and field chiefs on drug cheats.

Random, spot testing and life bans have established the British Board and Amateur Athletic Association as world leaders in the fight.

Now, the board is spending £30,000 (\$48,000) on an anti-drug video, "Stay Clean," featuring Christie, Jackson and Commonwealth Games gold medalist Sally Gunnell, who have all volunteered their services.

A ban on overseas offenders — such as disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson — competing in invitation meetings in Britain has been extended to all domestic events.

And athletes have been warned that the address or telephone number of their agent or manager will not be accepted as a "contact point" for drug testing officers.

Britain has been criticised for being too tough by some representatives of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, which banned Johnson for two years.

But board and AAA public relations officer Tony Ward, launching these new initiatives yesterday, countered: "We are not happy either with the IAAF's slackness. We believe its penalties are not strong enough. I certainly wouldn't like a rapist in my house."

"In Britain, there is no way back from a positive test. Our task must be to discourage athletes from even contemplating entering the sordid world of sports drug-culture."

The video, ward's brainchild, will be shot this summer, have its premiere in September and then be distributed throughout the sport.

The 15-minute film is aimed at young athletes, but will also warn of the dangers of over-the-counter medication and vitamin supplements.

Christie nearly landed himself in trouble at the Seoul Olympics by drinking ginseng tea — and Ward insisted: "It's vital no-one is punished through carelessness or ignorance."

Veteran campaigner Sir Arthur Gold said: "There is still a great deal of ignorance among coaches and athletes."



Samaranch honoured

The president of the international Olympic Committee Juan Antonio Samaranch gives a salute after receiving an honorary doctorate from University of Laval on Tuesday evening. (Reuters wirephoto)

Graziano, Hollywood's original Rocky, dies at 68

NEW YORK, May 23, (Reuters): Rocky Graziano, the gravel-voiced former boxer whose rise from street brawler to world middleweight champion made him Hollywood's original Rocky, has died at the age of 68.

Graziano died of heart and lung failure yesterday in a New York Hospital where he had been since suffering a stroke on April 8, a hospital spokeswoman said.

The boxer was immortalised in the 1956 film "Somebody Up There Likes Me," with Paul Newman playing Graziano.

He won the world middleweight crown at the age of 25 on July 16, 1947, in Chicago in the second of three legendary fights with Tony Zale.

He lost the title back to Zale on their third meeting nearly a year later.

Graziano attempted to regain the middleweight title in 1952, but was knocked out by Sugar Ray Robinson in the third round and retired later that year with a professional record of 67-10-6. He was elected to boxing's Hall of Fame in 1971.

Following his retirement from boxing, Graziano, with his thick New York accent and colourful speaking style, became a familiar US television personality. He made numerous commercials and was a regular on the talk show circuit.

Graziano, born Rocco Barbelli on January 1, 1922, grew up in New York's notoriously tough lower East Side.

He had many scrapes with the law and then the army, which gave him a dishonourable discharge for punching an officer and deserting.

He often said that if it hadn't been for boxing he would probably have died young or spent most of his life in jail.

"(Graziano) came from an area of the city where both sides of the tracks were wrong and he saved himself through boxing," said boxing historian Bert Sugar.

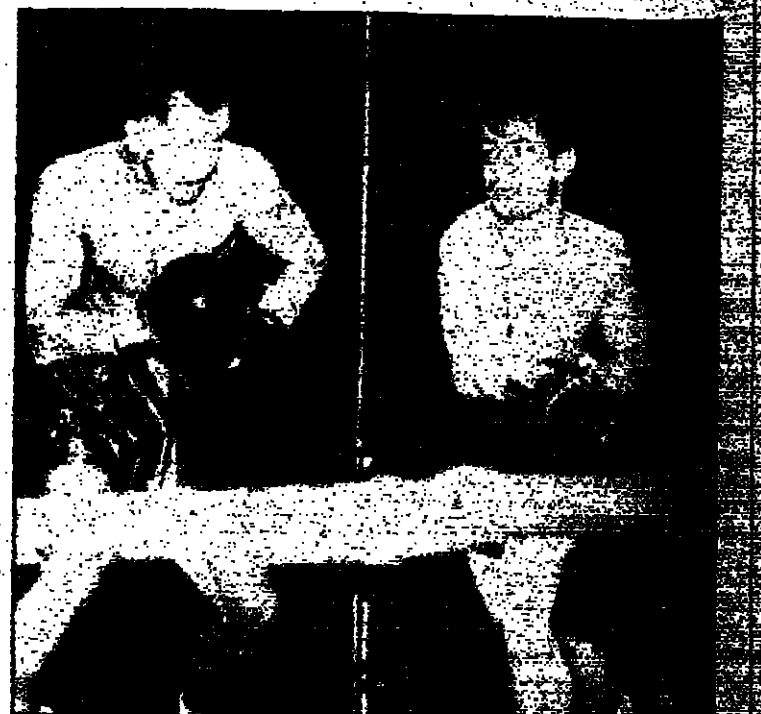
"As a performer he always gave 150 per cent."

The title for the Graziano film biography, according to Sugar, came from the fighter's words to his mother immediately after winning the title from Zale. "Hey ma, your bad boy done it. I told you somebody up there likes me."

Graziano was treated for exhaustion last year and suffered a heart attack last February. He is survived by his wife Norma and two daughters Audrey and Roxie.

Boxing historian and editor of Boxing Illustrated magazine, Bert Sugar, considers Graziano one of the most exciting fighters of all time.

"As a performer he always gave 150 per cent," Sugar said.



Zale (left) and Graziano during their 1948 bout which the latter won. (Reuters wirephoto)

Argentina end 10-month win drought

TEL AVIV, May 23. (Reuters). Argentina ended a 10-month win drought without an international win by beating Israel 2-1 yesterday in their last friendly before they defend the World Cup next month.

But the world champions, who thrashed Israel 7-2 just before the 1986 finals in

Mexico, gave another unconvincing performance against a home team that failed to qualify for Italy.

Diego Maradona was rarely allowed space by the Israeli defence, although he did break free to open the scoring in the 35th minute after a delightful one-two with Jorge Burruchaga.

Tal Banim, scorer of Israel's winner on his international debut against the Soviet Union last week, equalised with a fine shot two minutes later.

Argentine substitute Claudio Caniggia headed the winner from a Burruchaga cross after 67 minutes.

The outcome might have been different

had Nir Levin's stunning 31st minute volley not been disallowed for offside and captain Moshe Sinai not mis-kicked with only goalkeeper Nery Pumpido to beat.

Gutavo Dezotti, replaced by Caniggia midway through the second half, missed five chances, three from excellent positions following crisp Maradona passes.

Uruguay edge past England

Francescoli & Co. outplay home team



Francescoli outstanding in the midfield

LONDON, May 23. (Reuters). Uruguay, mixing rugged defence with artistic attack, gave their World Cup hopes an unexpected boost yesterday when they ended England's 17-match unbeaten run with a 2-1 victory at Wembley.

Excellent goals by Santiago Ostolaza, with a well-taken header after 17 minutes, and Jose Perdomo, from a powerfully-struck 25-metre free kick after 67, secured the South Americans' first triumph on English soil on their first appearance in England since 1966.

The hosts, looking for a victory from their last home match before departing for Sardinia, equalised with an equally-impressive goal by John Barnes after 51 minutes but were never able to take control of a niggling, frustrating match marred by Uruguay's blatant spoiling tactics.

Surprisingly, given the number of stoppages, Italian referee Pietro D'Elia was not moved to caution a single player on an evening memorable for only flashes of the sort of skill to be expected at the top level.

Had he been more authoritative, the referee might have been able to stamp out some of the shirt-tugging, late tackling and time-wasting which Uruguay employed frequently.

The South Americans, with captain Enzo Francescoli outstanding in an elusive attacking midfield role, made England look tactically wooden and static, particularly in defence, with their rapid counter-attacking play, but ultimately left a poor impression.

England, with captain Bryan Robson back in midfield, began brightly but found it difficult to break into forward positions and Uruguay went ahead with a typically lightning strike on the break.

Francescoli rode two tackles in midfield before releasing Antonio Alzamendi. The striker found Ostolaza with an accurate early cross and, after a long run from midfield, he looped his header high over goalkeeper Peter Shilton.

Barnes had a chance to reply, but shot tamely at goalkeeper Eduardo Pereira and it was not until after the interval that England emerged briefly as an

attacking force. Barnes, retained in a central striking role, had a header tipped over the bar before he levelled the scores with a well-struck half-volley.

Paul Gascoigne found Stuart Pearce with a sweeping crossfield pass and the left-back centred early for Barnes to chest the ball down and shoot beyond Pereira for his 10th goal for England.

Uruguay responded 11 minutes later when they won a free-kick 25 metres out and Perdomo curved a ferocious shot over the wall and into the net off the 40-year-old Shilton's outstretched hands to secure a victory they barely deserved.

England - Peter Shilton; Paul Parker, Des Walker, Terry Butcher, Stuart Pearce; Chris Waddle, Paul Gascoigne, Bryan Robson, Steve Hodge (Peter Beardsley 78 minutes); Gary Lineker (Steve Bull 78), John Barnes.

Uruguay - Eduardo Pereira; Nelson Gutierrez; Jose Herrera, Hugo de Leon, Alfonso Dominguez; Santiago Ostolaza, Jose Perdomo, Enzo Francescoli, Ruben Paz; Antonio Alzamendi, Ruben Sosa (Sergio Martinez '80).

Demol to play for Cologne

BRUSSELS, May 23. (Reuters). Belgian international defender Stephane Demol, who helped Porto to the Portuguese soccer title this season, said yesterday he had signed a three-year contract with Cologne of West Germany.

"I've already signed my contract and the two clubs will finalise the deal tomorrow," Demol told Reuters at Belgium's World Cup training centre near Brussels.

He declined to reveal the fee. Another member of the World Cup squad, defender Georges Grun, said he wanted to leave Anderlecht for Monaco but had also been contacted by French sides Bordeaux and Montpellier.

He said his transfer fee, according to the European Football Union (Uefa), would be 57 million francs (\$1.6 million).

"I hope to settle this matter before the start of the world cup so that I can have peace of mind," Grun said.

Midfielder Patrick Vervoort said he had also decided to leave Anderlecht but did not reveal the name of his future club.

Former stars retain contact with soccer

LONDON, May 23. (Reuters). From striking to advertising and tackling to negotiating, the World Cup stars of the past have had to make big changes after hanging up their soccer boots.

Many have made the orthodox move from player to coach or manager, like the great Dutchman Johan Cruyff who is now in charge at Barcelona, but others, like tough-tackling Italian Claudio Gentile, have slipped quietly into a more discreet and sophisticated business life.

Virtually all, however, have retained direct contact with the sport that made them famous and many will be as conspicuous in Italy in their suits and ties as they once were in their shorts and studs.

The hosts, for example, winners of the trophy in 1982, have a plethora of big names who continue to capitalise on their former fame.

Dino Zoff, who was goalkeeper and captain of the triumphant 1982 team, became coach to Juventus in 1988 and this season led them to victory in both the Italian Cup and the Uefa Cup. His success will not be prolonged, however, as he moves to join Lazio next season after an acrimonious departure from Turin.

Paolo Rossi, now 34, the six-goal hero of Italy's 1982 win, retired in 1987 and now works for an advertising agency with business interests in real estate. He still turns out for

charity and in 1988 scored for a rest of the world team in a 2-2 draw with the Americas in New York.

Claudio Gentile, the hard man of the 1982 team and the great Juventus side of the 1970s, is now in business as his former team mate Winger Franco Causio in Trieste where he was also a vice-president of Second Division Triestina until resigning last autumn.

Roberto Bettega, 40, a star of Italy's 1978 side, is a guest analyst for a private Italian television station. In 1987, he narrowly escaped being killed when he fractured his skull after his car spun off the motorway between Milan and Turin.

Gigi Riva, whose 35 goals for Italy remain the national record, is a businessman in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari and also a member of the Italian World Cup staff while one of his team mates from the Mexico 1970 final, Giacinto Facchetti, works in public relations for his former club Internazionale Milan.

West Germany's former stars are more actively involved in their current fortunes, none more so than Franz Beckenbauer, the 1974 winning captain who is now national team chief.

His assistant is Bertie Vogts, who was another member of the great West German side of the 1970s, while former national goalkeeper Sepp Maier trains the current international goalkeepers.

One of their biggest critics is often former

team mate Paul Breitner, who scored the equalising penalty in the 1974 final against the Netherlands. Breitner now writes for West Germany's biggest-selling newspaper Bild.

Uli Stielike, a powerhouse in the team which reached the 1982 final against Italy, is in charge of the Swiss national team after graduating from coaching in Swiss club soccer with Servette.

Gerd Mueller, goalscoring hero of the 1974 win and top scorer in Mexico in 1970, lives quietly with his wife Ursula in Munich. He has a restaurant in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, but leaves it out.

Of the Dutchmen who faced him in 1974, Johan Cruyff remains most conspicuous as coach to Barcelona after previously working with Ajax, whom he guided to the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1987 while many of his former team mates have slipped quietly into semi-obscure.

Johnny Rep, for example, continues to live in Amsterdam, but without any involvement in League soccer and Johan Neeskens in Switzerland.

Daniel Passarella, the captain who led Argentina to their win in 1978, is, like Beckenbauer and Cruyff, actively in soccer as a coach. Passarella, 36, joined River Plate in January this year.

He retired as a player only last August after ending his career with Fiorentina and Internazionale in Italy and River Plate.



Platini in Moscow

French football veteran Michael Platini signs an autograph for a young Soviet soldier at Moscow's Olympic Stadium on Tuesday evening where Platini and other French stars were playing against a similar Soviet team (Reuters wirephoto)

Police chief plays down Dutch threat

AMSTERDAM, May 23. (Reuters). A Dutch policeman with specialist knowledge of his nation's rowdy soccer supporters played down fears yesterday that they could be planning mass disorder during the World Cup finals in Italy.

"We have contact with known troublemakers and they have said they are not out to cause problems," said Peter van Essen, head of the Utrecht-based Football Hooliganism Unit.

"They will go to enjoy the tournament as they did the 1988 European Championships."

Dutch supporters were generally well-behaved when their team won the European title in West Germany two years ago.

But they have a reputation for domestic soccer violence second only to the English and many fear the Netherlands' first round match with England in Sardinia on June 16 could trigger a battle for the unofficial title of world's top thug.

"According to our information at the moment we expect only around 200 hooligans to travel to Sardinia for the match with England," Van Essen said.

He was sceptical of rumours that English and Dutch supporters had pre-arranged plans to meet and fight, saying: "There is no evidence to point in the direction of organised violence."

"The hooligans who are travelling are going in small numbers and with a variety of travel organisers. They are not planning to get together to form one gang," he added.

Italian authorities, taking no chances, have already sent 700 of 3,000 paramilitary police reinforcements due to be in Sardinia for the England-Netherlands match.

Leeds sign goalkeeper Lukic for \$1.7 million

LONDON, May 23. (Reuters). John Lukic became British soccer's third million pound sterling (\$1.7 million) goalkeeper when he joined newly-promoted Leeds United from Arsenal yesterday.

Arsenal sold 29-year-old Lukic, who had been with them for seven years, after signing England international David Seaman from Queen's Park Rangers for a British record £1.3 million (\$2.2 million) last week.

Lukic, who delayed Arsenal's attempts to sign Seaman

earlier in the season when he refused to move to Queen's Park Rangers in a player-swap, returns to his former club as Leeds' first million pound player.

Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson said: "I feel embarrassed about paying one million pounds because it is a lot of money. But that is the market price at the moment. It is the right fee for a top goalkeeper."

Nigel Martyn of FA Cup finalists Crystal Palace became the first million pound keeper last November.

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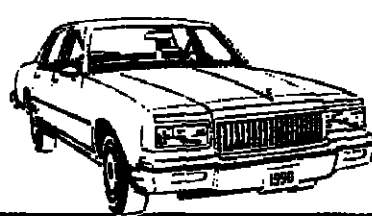
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Oilers take 3-1 Stanley Cup lead



Anderson (left) celebrates his first goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

EDMONTON, Alberta, May 23. (Reuters). The Edmonton Oilers moved to within one victory of winning their fifth National Hockey League championship in seven years with a convincing 5-1 victory over the Boston Bruins yesterday.

The Bruins, who were looking to even the best-of-seven series for the Stanley Cup after losing the first two games at home, trail 3-1 with the fifth game set for Boston on Thursday.

Edmonton's top scoring line exploded yesterday as Glenn Anderson and Craig Simpson each had two goals and two assists and team captain Mark Messier had three assists.

Anderson gave Edmonton the lead just over two minutes into the game when he completed a two-on-one break with Simpson by beating Boston goaltender Andy Moog with a backhand.

Messier, who has emerged as the Oilers' leader since Wayne Gretzky was traded to Los Angeles, set up the second goal at 16:27 of the first period.

Messier passed the puck from behind the Boston net to Anderson who was char-

ging in unchecked. Anderson instantly snapped the puck over Moog's shoulder and into the upper right corner of the goal.

The Oilers scored twice in the second period - Simpson one minute into the period and Esa Tikkanen with 45 seconds remaining - while goaltender Bill Ranford continued to frustrate Boston's attackers and Edmonton left the ice with a commanding 4-0 lead after two periods.

John Carter broke Ranford's bid for a shut out with just under five minutes remaining in the game when he connected on a 20-foot slapshot from the left faceoff circle, but it was too little, too late for Boston.

Ranford, a strong candidate for the Stanley Cup Most Valuable Player award, had shut out Boston since the first period of the previous game for a total of 99 minutes and 58 seconds when Carter scored.

Simpson completed the scoring for Edmonton at 18:36 with his League-leading 15th goal of the playoffs.

Ranford stopped 24 of 25 Boston shots on goal, while Moog faced 33 shots and stopped 28.



W. Germans train

The West German soccer team for the World Cup finals seen training at the Kaiserau Sports School in West Germany on Tuesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Six US cities want to stage 1994 Cup finals

NEW YORK, May 23. (Reuters). Six US cities have expressed an interest in staging the 1994 World Cup soccer final, the World Cup '94 organising committee said yesterday.

Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, Washington D.C., Kansas City and Seattle have all told the committee that they would like to have the final in their city, Scott Letellier, president of the committee, said in a nationwide telephone conference call.

Letellier added that other cities might also decide to enter the competition to host the final by the deadline for bids on December 10. "Six cities have expressed an interest in staging the final," said Letellier, whose committee is supervising arrangements for the first World Cup to be held in the United States.

"An indication of the surging interest in the World Cup is that the number of communities that have contacted us has now risen to 27, whereas in 1989 it was just 15," he said.

He said that 26 of the cities would be sending delegations to Italy next month for this year's World Cup, including the mayors of Kansas City, Dallas and Pasadena, California, the secretary of state of Florida and Tom Landry, the legendary coach of the Dallas Cowboys National Football League team who is a leading member of his city's World Cup committee.

Letellier told a questioner that the United States should have an easier time than Italy in preparing a playing surface up to World Cup standards.



Two Oilers players go down after colliding with each other. (Reuters wirephoto)



Oilers' goalie Bill Ranford (right) makes a save. (Reuters wirephoto)

SPORTS

New Zealand win

LEEDS, England, May 23. (Reuters): New Zealand beat England by four wickets in the first one-day cricket international at Headingley today.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND
G. Gooch c Millnow b Pringle.....55
D. Gower c Priest b Hadlee.....128
R. Smith c Crowe b Hadlee.....128
A. Lamb run out.....18
A. Stewart lbw b Morrison.....33
D. Pringle not out.....30
R. Russell c Crowe b Pringle.....13
P. DeFreitas not out.....1
Extras (b-10 w-1 nb-5).....16
Total (for six wickets, 55 overs).....295
Fall of wickets: 1-5 2-118 3-168 4-255-261 6-274

Did not bat: C. Lewis, G. Small, E. Hemmings
Bowling: Hadlee 11-4-46-2, Pringle 11-2-45-2, Morrison 11-0-70-1, Millnow 11-0-65-0, Priest 11-0-59-0.

NEW ZEALAND
J. Wright c Stewart b Gooch.....52
A. Jones c Russell b Gooch.....51
M. Crowe c Russell b Lewis.....46
M. Greatbatch not out.....102
K. Rutherford lbw b Lewis.....8
R. Hadlee c Lamb b Lewis.....12
M. Priest c Gower b Small.....12
R. Smith not out.....17
Extras (b-5 lb-7 w-3 nb-1).....16
Total (for six wickets, 54.5 overs) 298
Fall of wickets: 1-97 2-106 3-224 4-224 5-254 6-259

Did not bat: J. Millnow, D. Morrison, C. Pringle
Bowling: Small 11-1-43-1, DeFreitas 10-5-70-0, Pringle 7-0-45-0, Lewis 11-0-54-3, Hemmings 11-0-51-0, Gooch 4-0-23-2
New Zealand won by four wickets.
Second one-day international: May 25, at the Oval.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Amir's Cup

AL ARABI meet Kazma in the final of the Amir's Cup on Saturday. Kazma beat Qadisiya 3-1 yesterday after having secured a 1-1 draw in the first leg. Al Arabi beat Al Sahel 2-1 and 1-0.

Pistons win

NEW YORK, May 23. (Reuters): Result of the National Basketball Association playoff game yesterday: Eastern Conference finals, Detroit Pistons 102, Chicago Bulls 93 (Pistons lead best-of-seven series 3-0).

Tickets forged

VIENNA, May 23. (Reuters): Several thousand forged tickets may have been sold for today's European Soccer Cup final between AC Milan of Italy and Benfica of Portugal, police said yesterday.

Police force

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, May 23. (Reuters): Seven hundred paramilitary police reinforcements have arrived in Sardinia, the first of 3,000 being sent to face the threat from Dutch and English hooligans during the soccer World Cup.

Dow Classic

BIRMINGHAM, England, May 23. (UPI): American Zina Garrison, who has risen to sixth in the women's world tennis rankings, heads the entry for his year's \$150,000 Dow Classic Women's Grass Court Tournament at Edgbaston June 11-17.

Americans beat W. Germans

Becker blasts Gilbert



Becker destroyed Gilbert

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 23. (Reuters): Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, a master on grass, switched his power game to clay with devastating effect today when he crushed world number four Brad Gilbert in the World Team Cup.

But his performance was not enough to stop the Americans notching up their second victory of the eight-team round-robin event.

The West German world number three, whose serve-and-volley game is more suited to fast surfaces, gave a faultless display of attacking tennis to dispose of Gilbert 6-1 6-1 in just under an hour.

Jim Courier pulled the Americans level with a 6-3 1-6 6-3 victory over Carl-Uwe Steeb before teaming up with doubles specialist Ken Flach to defeat Becker and Eric Jelen 6-2 6-2.

While West Germany now look likely to miss out on a place in Sunday's final with the Americans leading Group One, Becker's impressive singles performance on a surface he used to hate was highly significant ahead of next week's French Open.

Becker has been working hard to adapt his game to slow clay courts. "I don't think I could play better than that on clay," he said. "It was almost perfect."

"My form has been getting better and better in the past few weeks. It's about time I got it right. I believe in my head now I can beat people on this surface."

The sight of a serve and volleyer like Becker firing on all cylinders here will depress the circuit's clan of clay-court specialists who love to spin the ball and slog out long, slow baseline rallies.

Becker, who in his early days used to take off for the net like a sprinter from his blocks, showed against Gilbert that he now has the patience to wait at the back of the court and wait for the opportunity to move forward and pounce.

"He attacked the ball so well and didn't make a single mistake," Gilbert said. "He just overpowered me."

In the second match in Group One Spain secured victory against the Soviet Union after the two singles when Sergi Bruguera beat Alexander Volkov 7-5 6-3 and Jordi Arrese overcame Andrei Chesnokov 6-2 4-6 7-6.

England Open tennis champion Thomas Muster pulled out of the World Team Cup with an arm injury today and will need intensive treatment to be fit for next week's French Open.

The Austrian, who has shown superb form on clay recently by reaching the final of his last three tournaments, said he was returning to Vienna for treatment on a bone infection in his left playing arm.

"I have had this problem for a while now," Muster said. "I am taking this break now so that I can do what I can to avoid missing Paris."

LATE NEWS

Milan triumph

VIENNA, May 23. (Reuters): AC Milan of Italy beat Benfica of Portugal 1-0 (halftime 0-0) in the European Cup soccer final today.

Scorer: Frank Rijkaard (8th minute)

Attendance: 57,500.

Bridge

RESULTS of Sheraton Bridge game held on Tuesday:

N/S

Sharing 1st position: Tiab & Sherin and Nahil Akel and Lollo Murthwaite

3. Banayot & Gajjar

E/W

1. Latala & Dr Reddy

2. Desmond Pereira & Sapre

3. Jaggi & Simon

Results of the Regency Bridge Club game held on Sunday:

N/S

1. Mohammed Merchant & Carsten Buus

2. Isaac Banayot & Fazal Merchant

3. Nahil Akel & Sherin Basyouni

E/W

1. Peter Harris & Mohammed Elbaz

2. Sankar Reddy & Dhruva Mukerjee

3. Ezzeldin & Ahmed Hneidi

Digression well beaten

GOODWOOD, England, May 23. (Reuters): Epsom Derby favourite Digression suffered a crushing defeat in the predominantly stakes today, the final recognised trial for Britain's premier horse racing classic on June 6.

Digression was the 2-1 stakes favourite and had every chance on the rails with two furlongs to go, but when Pat Eddery went for his whip the colt failed to respond and finished fifth to Razzen in a field of six.

Razzen, ridden by American Steve Cautchen, led with just over a furlong to go and ran on well to beat Elmaamul by four lengths.

Silca an' Key was threequarters of a length back in third place.

Razzen, trained by Henry Cecil and now unbeaten in three appearances, has been made the second favourite by British odds-makers for the Epsom Derby behind Michael Stoute's Rock Hopper, who did not race in the predominate.

However, Cecil is not particularly confident about his horse's prospects. "Razzen underwent a throat operation last year and as a result did not race," he said. "In fact, he didn't gallop until February."

"He needs more time and if the derby was run a month later, I would be getting very excited. In my heart of hearts, I know he needs more time."

Dick Hern, trainer of runner-up Elmaamul, said he would like to see a video of the race before making a derby decision and added: "He's run well and would have finished closer to the winner but for being hampered."

Hern said his other derby possible, Mukddaam, was recovering from a bruised foot and hopefully would be fit for the Epsom meeting.

Lollo takes top award

THE Regency Ladies Bridge Club held their End of the Season Tournament yesterday. The Players of the Year were also named at this tournament. The prizes were presented to all the winners by tournament director Nahil Akel.

The Players of the Year were as follows:
1. Lollo Murthwaite
2. Nahil Akel
Sharing third: Nida Khalaf & Suhendan Oskay
5. Rima Ayyad
6. Jamila Akel
7. Rabab Abboushi

8. Ghofran Mikail
9. Dona Materny
10. Greta Shahtoura

Results of the End of the Season Tournament:

1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite

2. Bianca Moussali & Ghada Sarraf

3. Hala Khouri & Rima Ayyad

4. Jamila Akel & Nuha Khalaf

5. Rima Farah & Randa Finan

Below: Lollo Murthwaite (left) and Nahil Akel. Left: Some of the winners receive their prizes from Nahil Akel. (Photos by Munzer Khouria)



Essex score 10-wicket victory

LONDON, May 23. (Reuters): Essex crushed English county cricket champions Worcestershire by 10 wickets yesterday in a one-sided clash between the sides who have between them won the title five years out of the past seven.

Essex's victory was particularly satisfying as they were denied the championship last year when the Test and County Cricket Board docked them 25 points for providing a sub-standard pitch.

England captain Graham Gooch ensured victory when he smashed 42 from only 35 deliveries to take his side racing past the slender victory target of 45 just before the lunch break.

Gooch plundered 19 runs from former fast bowler Graham Dilley's fifth over, including four boundaries, to pass 1,000 runs in all competitions this season in only his 12th innings.

The rapid finish allowed Gooch to speed away from Worcester to Leeds where England played New Zealand in the first of two one-day internationals today.

Medium-pace Derek Pringle also warmed up in style for the international by completing a five-wicket haul.

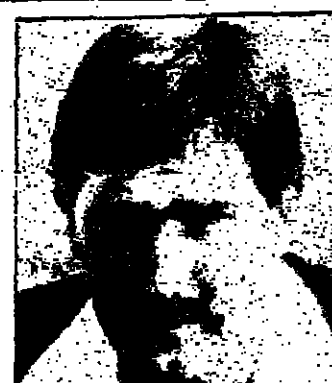
Pringle took five for 66, ending the Worcestershire second innings at 218 when he caught and bowled Phil Newport.

Newport had scored a magnificent 96 which was largely responsible for the match going into a third day.

He had been out in the 90s already this season, hitting a career best 98 against New Zealand.

Two other members of the England team also enjoyed success in yesterday's county matches.

Fast bowler Devon Malcolm, called up to replace the injured Angus Fraser, returned his best figures of the season with four for 11.63 overs and 265 for six.



Graham Gooch



Derek Pringle



Devon Malcolm



Phil Newport

88 in Somerset's second innings at Taunton.

Malcolm captured the prize wickets of South African opener Jimmy Cook for five and skipper Chris Tavare for nine as Derbyshire defeated the home side by 146 runs.

And Hampshire's David Gower, whose form has veered between the brilliant and the abysmal this season, stroked 69 in his side's drawn game with Surrey at the Oval.

Results

At Worcester: Essex beat Worcestershire by 10 wickets. Essex 447 for four declared in 100 overs and 48 for no wicket (G. Gooch 42 not out). Worcestershire 273 in 75.1 overs and 218 (P. Newport 96, G. Dilley 40, D. Pringle five for 66, N. Foster four for 64). Essex 24 points Worcestershire four.

At Dover: Sussex v Glamorgan match drawn. Glamorgan 402 for three declared. Sussex 222 and 492 for seven declared (M. Speight 131, P. Moores 106 not out, C. Wells 94, A. Pigott 54, A. Dodemaide 45). Glamorgan eight points, Sussex three.

At Taunton: Derbyshire beat Somerset by 146 runs. Derbyshire 372 for nine declared in 116.3 overs and 265 for six.

declared, (J. Morris 109, K. Krikken 77 not out). Somerset 272 for four declared in 89.4 overs and 219. (J. Hardy 91, R. Harden 42, D. Malcolm four for 88). Derbyshire 21 points, Somerset five.

At the Oval: Surrey v Hampshire match drawn. Surrey 374 for five declared in 110 overs and 204 for five declared (A. Stewart 100 not out). Hampshire 250 for four declared in 83.1 overs and 238 for five (C. Smith 84, D. Gower 69, M. Marshall 51 not out). Surrey and Hampshire five points.

At Old Trafford: Lancashire v Leicestershire match drawn. Leicestershire 336 in 115 overs and 229 for one declared (J. Whitaker 107 not out, N. Briers 81 not out). Lancashire 250 for one declared in 74.2 overs and 201 for seven (G. Mendis 82, N. Fairbrother 46). Lancashire six points Leicestershire three.

At Edgbaston: Nottinghamshire beat Warwickshire by five runs. Nottinghamshire 303 for seven declared (P. Johnson 73, R. Robinson 47). Warwickshire 252 in 81.3 overs and 298 (G. Humpage 62, Asif Din 61, A. Kalicharran 58). Nottinghamshire 24 points Warwickshire five.

Italy train under guard

ROME, May 23. (Reuters): Armed police and armoured cars are protecting Italy's World Cup squad after their training sessions were repeatedly disrupted by violence and insults from soccer hooligans in Florence.

Police said today a molotov cocktail had been found after rioting by about 50 fans outside Italy's coverciano training camp in Florence on Friday night.

National trainer Azeglio Vicini sealed Coverciano to the public after hundreds of local Fiorentina fans jeered and insulted the players during training on Saturday and Sunday.

Training has continued this week with riot police standing on the edge of the Coverciano pitch. Armoured cars and at least 300 police block approach roads and guard the camp.

Florence's hooligans are Italy's most notorious and their reputation contrasts sharply with the city's fame as a cradle of European civilisation.

They rioted in Florence as well as outside Coverciano on Friday after Fiorentina announced the world record \$13 million transfer of Italy midfielder Roberto Baggio to Juventus. At least 50 people were injured and 15 fans arrested.



Todd Whitehead paints the pit wall at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in preparation for the Indy 500. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cheever named fastest rookie

Luyendyk seeks first career win

INDIANAPOLIS, May 23. (UPI): Eddie Cheever was honoured as the fastest rookie qualifier for the Indianapolis 500 yesterday, receiving a cheque for \$1,500 from the American Dairy Association.

Cheever's qualifying speed of 217.926 (350.717) in Chip Ganassi's Penske PC18-Chevrolet was the fastest qualifying attempt ever by a first-year driver, beating last year's mark of 214.028 mph (344.444 kph) set by John Jones.

Other winners of the award include Michael Andretti in 1984, Teo Fabi in 1983, Rick Mears in 1978, the late Tim Richmond, in 1980 and Randy Lanier in 1986.

The Dairy Association also provides the bottle of milk traditionally given to the race winner in victory lane. That tradition began in 1933, with Louis Meyer asking for milk after winning the race.

Two other rookies — Scott Goodyear and Dean Hall — are in the 33-car starting field. They received a cheque for \$100, which pales in comparison to the \$100,000 each team is guaranteed for making the race.

Miller Brewing Co. will announce plans for a fund-raising drive for American Olympic athletes at a news conference on Friday at the Speedway Motel. Former Olympians Dan Jansen and Quinn Buckner, as well as driver Roberto Guerrero, will be in attendance as Miller officials announce plans to help Olympic athletes train in non-Olympic years.

The sight of Emerson Fittipaldi and Rick Mears in the front row is no surprise, but No. 3 qualifier Arie Luyendyk will be looking for his first career victory Sunday. The Dutchman's best Indy car finish is a second at Portland in 1988.

"Their behaviour has been abominable and does nothing at all for the morale of the players," he told reporters.

"Ireland's manager Jack Charlton, who went salmon fishing yesterday to relax before flying to Italy, is now likely to be called in as a mediator when the two sides meet for new talks."

The players are demanding match fees of 1,000 punts (\$1,500) per game retrospectively for 14 matches played since the European Championship finals two years ago.

They argue that the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), which was on the verge of bankruptcy five years ago, has netted 2.5 million punts (\$3.75 million) since the Irish began their record-breaking charge to the World Cup finals.

The FAI has offered to double players' payments to 500 punts (\$750) for internationals with fees of 300 punts (\$450) for friendly matches in retrospective payments — a total of 131,200 punts (\$196,800) less than that demanded by the players.

An FAI spokesman rejected the players' demands as unrealistic. "We do not wish to be seen adopting a dog in the manger attitude and we are anxious not to do anything that might be interpreted as damaging morale," and FAI spokesman said.

"The facts are that we are paying the players as much as the associations can afford."

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